



World Justice
Project

San Antonio Del Tequendama,
Cundinamarca, Colombia



If the Laws Are Strong, Why Is the Environment Still Suffering?

Many countries have strong environmental laws on paper, but in practice these laws seldom lead to successful, tangible results. In 2020, the World Justice Project (WJP) and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) sought to address this disconnect. Together, WJP and IDB undertook the first-ever study identifying potential environmental governance improvements across ten Latin American and Caribbean countries.

“ This work is in itself a very valuable contribution to environmental governance precisely because it emphasizes the generation of certain, concrete, and relevant data for decision-making.”

– **Andrea Brusco**, Environmental Governance
Regional Coordinator at United Nations
Environment Programme.



Countries

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Jamaica
Peru
Uruguay

The study used data from over 500 local experts across the 10 countries to produce new data for 11 primary indicators of environmental governance. These indicators include air quality and climate, water quality and resources, biodiversity, forestry, waste management, and civic engagement.

The countries involved use the indicators to help strengthen public agencies, improve coordination, and support increased transparency and civic participation regarding the environment. While challenges remain, this work has been an important tool enabling countries to translate environmental laws into active protection for people and the planet.



Read the full
report on our
website.