

# Analysis of Sustainable Development in Latin America

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## Introduction

The declining state of the environment has been cause for concern for many and the need to take action is more necessary than ever. However, the world will not stop to tend to the damages done to the environment. Society must continue to grow and adapt in a manner that benefits both humans and protects the planet. Sustainable development has been the key to ensuring the continuation of human development while simultaneously protecting natural systems and resources. Sustainable development may not be easy or feasible everywhere in the the world. Not every country will have the same priorities placed on such initiatives.

## Research Question

To what extent are countries in Latin America implementing sustainable development ?

## Methods

My method of researching primarily consisted of reading various peer-reviewed journals. The journals provided insight on past implementation of green initiatives as well as future plans and meetings. During the research process I came across various accounts of sustainable technologies produced out of Latin America.

## Results

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is the outcome of a community properly balancing social equity, economic growth, and environmental protection



## Protected Land

The shaded section of the map represents countries in Latin America with designated protected lands.

## RIO+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Conference amongst the United Nations convened in Rio to create sustainable development plans and green economic policies.



## Discussion

I began my research by finding a universal definition of sustainable development. Sustainable development is what happens social equity, environmental protection and economic growth meet. By researching sustainable development through the Latin American, I learned that need for environmental protection is being acknowledged and acted upon. This is displayed on the map by the sheer abundance of protected lands in Latin America. A number of Latin American countries attended the RIO+20 conference where the United Nations set a number of sustainable development goals and plans for the future. The fact that the last conference took place in Rio De Janeiro is important as it acknowledges Latin America as a significant and necessary part of pursuing the unified goal of global sustainable development.

## Future Research

For future resaerch I would like to dig deeper into sustainable development techniques in larger Latin American cities. Comparing these results with other major cities across the world could possibly reveal cultural, societal, and economic differences that factor into a nation's ideas towards sustainable development. Reaching to practices outside Latin America could lead to a better understanding of the most effective practices for reaching sustainable development and how those can be applied around the world.

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