



Latin America and the Caribbean

# Regional Fund Quality Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Climate Protection

**Objective** The project aims to strengthen the capabilities of the Quality Infrastructure (QI) institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean to develop and supply new and innovative services in the fields of biodiversity and climate protection.

**Approach** The project has a fund structure which provides an optimum gearing of the support measures to the different national and sub-regional framework conditions. National and regional QI institutions submit project proposals with respect to biodiversity and climate protection, these are assessed and selected by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) according to well-defined criteria. This structure allows to address the different needs of the QI institutions with necessary flexibility, to implement trendsetting projects exemplarily and to strengthen different QI elements, both in the individual countries and in the region.

In order to support the transition process towards a “green economy”, it is planned to focus on four key areas: regional exchange with regard to ISO standards and development of standards, improvement of the metrological system, and development and implementation of new accreditation programmes as well as programmes for validation, verification and certification.

The lead political partner is the Organization of American States (OAS). The regional organizations of standardization (Comisión Panamericana de Normas Técnicas, COPANT), metrology (Sistema Interamericano de Metrología, SIM) and accreditation (Inter American Accreditation Cooperation, IAAC) and their member organizations are directly involved in the implementation.

**Impact** In the realm of standards and technical regulations, metrology, competent capacities for validation, verification and certification as well as confident capacities of accreditation, the project creates necessary prerequisites for an effective and efficient biodiversity conservation and climate protection in the region. As a direct result of the strengthening of QI services in these fields, the countries of the region dispose of reliable technical data for political decisions. This way, they can fulfil their obligations laid down in international conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and use the instruments provided within the scope of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Small and medium enterprises (SME) will benefit from reliable, accredited measurement and testing capacities which have to be provided to ensure sustainable management and innovative products and services (e.g. export of biodiverse produce or climate label) to be placed on the market. For the consumers, QI is indispensable since having the competence of service providers/manufacturers and the quality of their products determined by accredited conformity assessment bodies reduces the risk of fraudulent labelling and “greenwashing”.

**Cooperation** The project aims to coordinate its activities closely with other donors active in the region in similar working areas.

**Financing** Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

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