Policy and institutional continuity is essential for the success of environmental governance initiatives in all LAC countries. To support this, the GEO-5 process established a High-Level Intergovernmental Advisory Panel to identify and concur on priority areas for policy action. GEO-5 provides a scientific analysis of selected environmental challenges and the solutions available to address them.

ADRESSING CHALLENGES
Policy and institutional continuity is essential for the success of environmental governance initiatives in all LAC countries. To support this, the GEO-5 process established a High-Level Intergovernmental Advisory Panel to identify and concur on priority areas for policy action. GEO-5 provides a scientific analysis of selected environmental challenges and the solutions available to address them.

CONCLUSIONS
Environmental governance needs to be reformed as a consequence of the rapid transition to post-industrial societies. This transition has created new environmental governance institutions, the requirements of which are not being met in the region. Although some progress has been made in large countries like Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico, many countries require more substantial changes in law and policy. In this context, it is essential that the region continues to strengthen its capacity to address environmental concerns, and that governance systems converge on a framework that explicitly recognizes the linkages between economic development and environmental protection.

GOAL 1: REDUCE DEFORESTATION AND DESERTIFICATION

Through the overall vision of a sustainable integration of Latin America and the Caribbean’s economic and environmental systems, GEO-5 has provided a framework for policy action. The policy framework is the result of a combination of scientific research, data collection, and analysis, and includes the identification of priority areas for action. In the context of sustainable development, it is essential that the region continues to strengthen its capacity to address environmental concerns, and that governance systems converge on a framework that explicitly recognizes the linkages between economic development and environmental protection.

References
Policy options for Latin America and the Caribbean

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Global environmental awareness has increased since environmental considerations incipiently entered the public domain in the late 1960s. This awareness is the result of growing information flows and access to knowledge management24. Environmental awareness has spilled over from the public, while helping to monitor and to generate environmental information. In recent decades, most Latin American and Caribbean countries have transformed their traditional, compartmentalized approaches by adopting more sustainable development in the Amazon region through coordinating and harmonizing different initiatives and international organizations worldwide22.

In 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm adopted the General Declaration on the Human Environment. The Declaration provided a moral and political framework for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the environment. The World Charter for Nature, which is based on the principles of the Declaration, was adopted in 1982. The Charter is a living document that provides a moral and political framework for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the environment.

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