



Food and Agriculture  
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# TOWARDS ZERO POLLUTION

4 June 2021

Launch of the  
Global Assessment  
of Soil Pollution Report



UN  
environment  
programme







Food and Agriculture  
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# Status of Soil Pollution Latin American and The Caribbean

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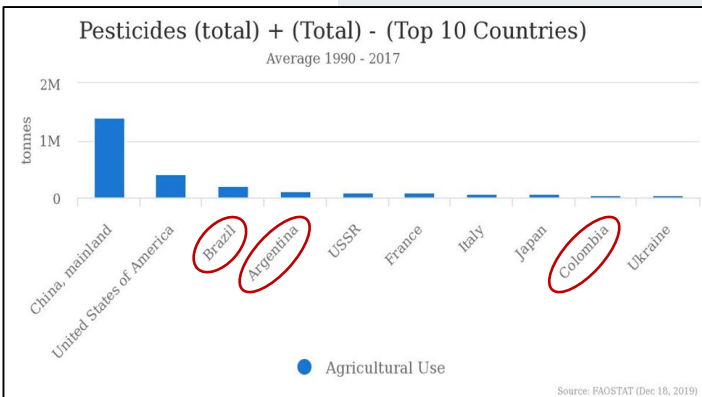
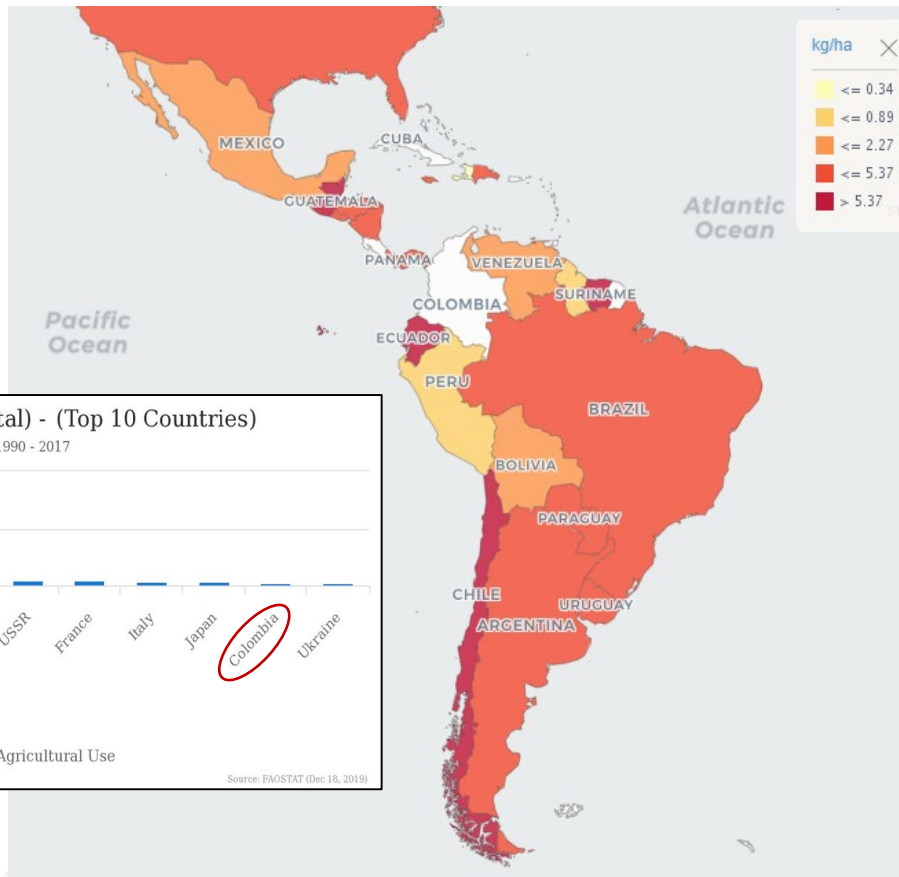




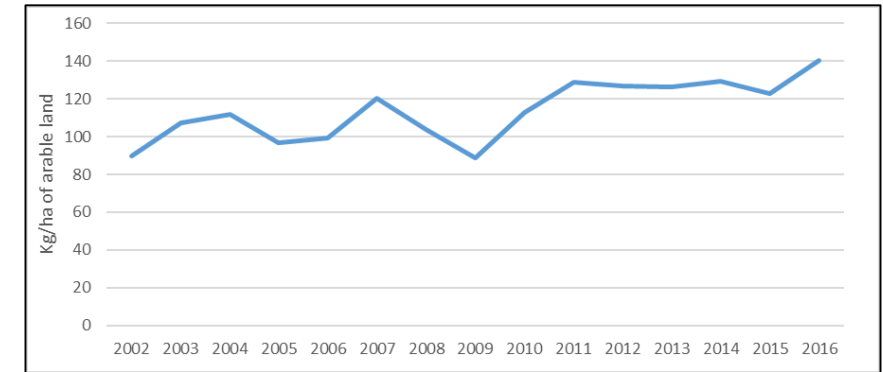
# Drivers of soil pollution in Latin America and The Caribbean



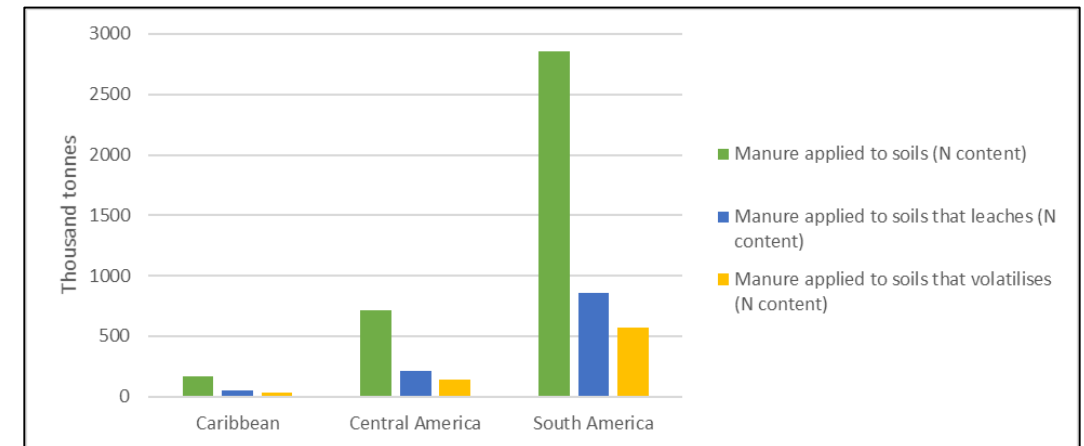
# Agricultural Practices



Pesticides Use per area of cropland (kg/ha) 1990 and 2017 FAOSTAT, 2019a.



Fertilizer consumption in LA and TC 2002 to 2016, World Bank, 2019b

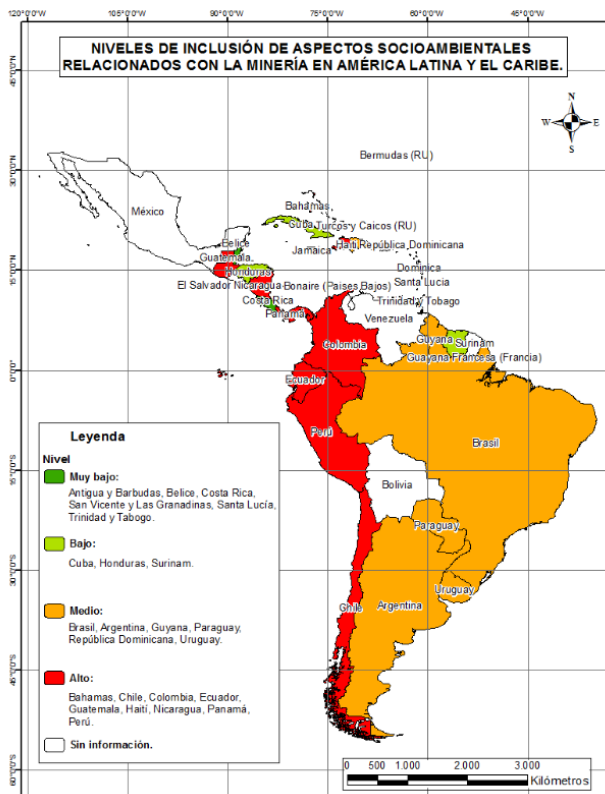


Manure applied in soils, amounts leached and volatilized. Source: FAOSTAT, 2019

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# Mining and Oil Industry



Rios, 2018

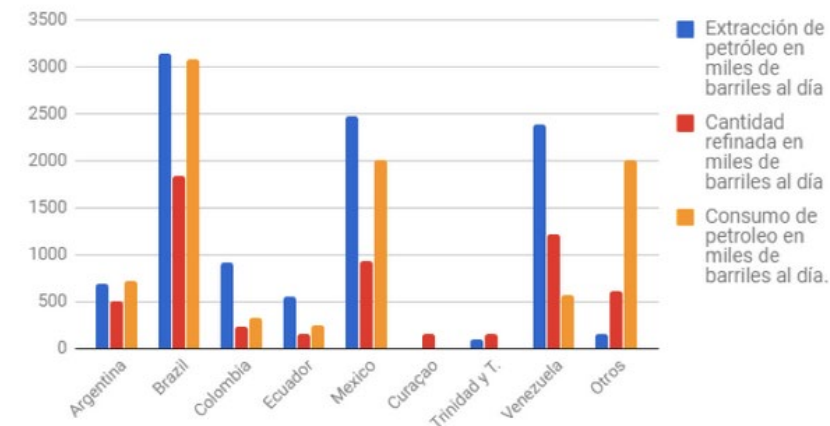


Semana and Oro Channel, 2019



Oroinformación, 2019

Relación entre la extracción de petróleo, refinamiento y demanda en América Latina y el Caribe (mb/d).

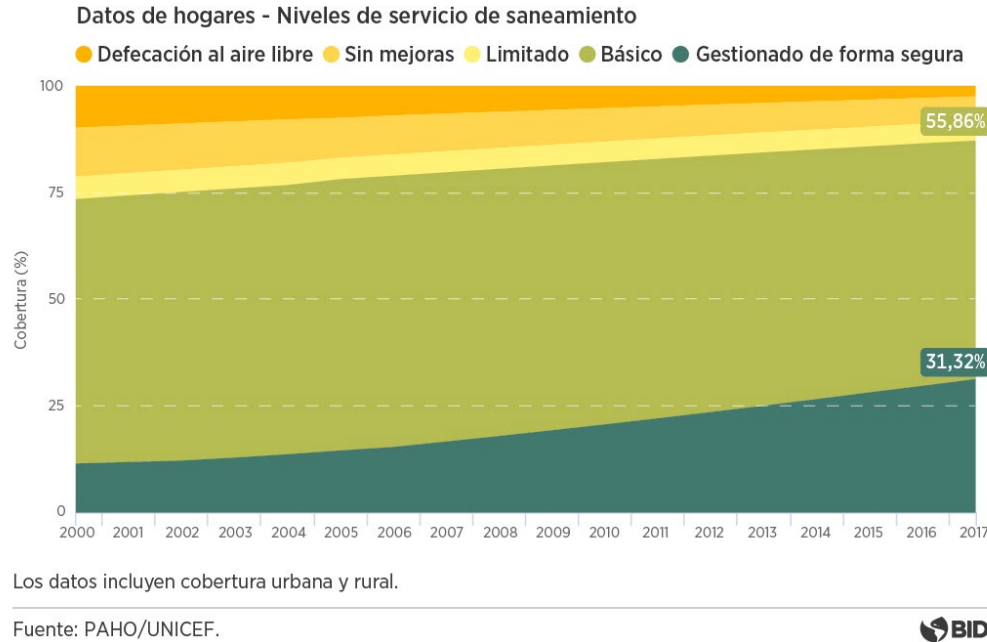
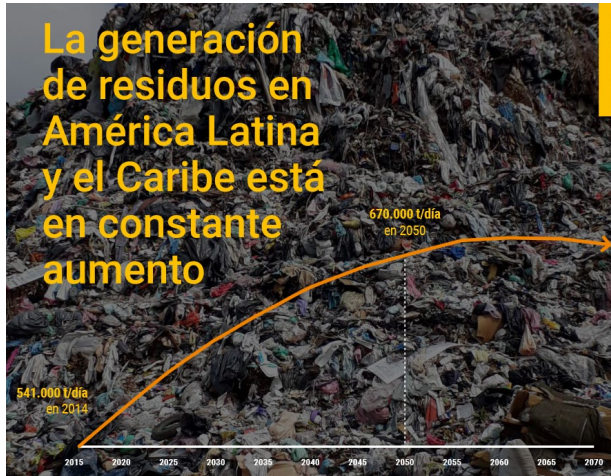


Datos de 2016. Fuente: Opep WOO-2017 \_©Global Affairs

UNAV, 2018

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# Urban waste management practices



Ambiente, 2020

60% of the population in the region is connected to a wastewater systems and only 30-40% of the generated volume is treated

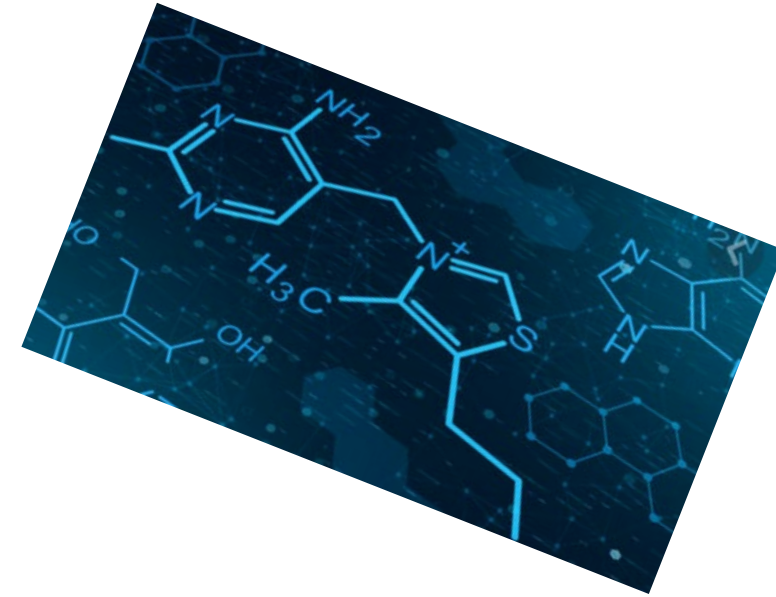


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# Main Pollutants in Soil and Regulation in Latin America and the Caribbean

<b>Organic Contaminants</b>	Pesticides
	Hydrocarbons
	Pharmaceuticals, drugs and personal care products
	Plastics and synthetic polymers
<b>Trace elements</b>	Lead
	Cadmium
	Mercury
<b>Other</b>	Emerging Contaminants
	Plastics and microplastics



All countries in the region have a framework of environmental legislations and regulations related to forestry, hazardous waste, public health, oil pollution, livestock, mining, pesticides, solid waste and fertilizers. Only Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras, Peru, Argentina, Ecuador and Brazil, have specific laws for contaminated sites, which address the detection, investigation, remediation and control of environmental contamination in the soil.

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# Final Comments

- ✓ Soil Pollution Knowledge is in early stages of development in Latin America and The Caribbean. Mostly countries are understanding in which situation are they in.
- ✓ Main health documented problems associated to soil pollution are related to agricultural chemicals. tannery, metallurgical, battery recycling, refinery companies, mercury levels above the WHO limits and other trace elements by mining.
- ✓ Most of the advances in knowledge of soil pollution are at the national level and are derived from projects financed by international institutions. It is important to promote projects in this field by the countries research agencies.
- ✓ Is important to establish in the region mandatory threshold values for soil contaminants and soil quality standards as well as monitoring and international indicators for technicians and policy makers to measure progress in combating soil pollution.
- ✓ There are gaps in the dissemination of information about polluted sites. In most countries of the region there are technical limitations of both research and government laboratories, which reduces the availability of information, and access to innovative machinery and technologies for soil pollution remediation.





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