Environmental Degradation in Venezuela

The Maduro regime’s mismanagement of the economy, and in particular the oil industry, has resulted in considerable environmental degradation with impacts far beyond Venezuela’s borders. During Summer and Fall 2021, the CSIS Americas Program convened subject matter experts on environmental degradation in Venezuela to provide a comprehensive assessment of the issue in advance of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP26. CSIS analyzed the extent of ecological damage in Venezuela, its impacts on Indigenous communities throughout the Amazon Basin, and the role of the oil sector in environmental degradation and in economic recovery.

**Venezuela’s Environmental Degradation:**
This video provides an overview of the Maduro regime’s environmentally degrading actions and consequences in Venezuela and beyond, in the context of the upcoming opportunity presented by COP26.

**The Role of the Oil Sector in Venezuela’s Environmental Degradation and Economic Rebuilding:**
This policy brief discusses the decline of Venezuela’s once powerful oil sector, the environmental impacts of the oil sector, and the role of oil in a potential political transition.

**Indigenous Communities in the Amazon Suffer from the Maduro Regime’s Environmental Assault:**
This podcast with Luis Felipe Duchicela and Cristina Burelli discusses the impacts of environmental degradation on Indigenous communities in Venezuela and throughout the Amazon Basin.

**Environmental Degradation in Venezuela:**
This public event highlights environmental degradation under the Maduro regime and related impacts such as pollution from mining and the oil industry as well as the spread of organized crime.

**IN THE NEWS**

*Senior Associate Mariana Campero* investigated the complex U.S.-Mexico relationship and the factors that threaten it for CFR’s "Why It Matters".

*Senior Associate Evan Ellis* explained how Chinese investment in Latin American economies can impact political favor towards the United States for VOA.

*Senior Adviser Martha Bárcena* covered several topics including the end of the Mérida Initiative, U.S.-Mexico bilateral policy priorities, Mexico’s tourism sector, and COP 26 in her weekly column for El Heraldo de México.

*Senior Associate Georges Fauriol* clarified the layers of national crises currently facing Haiti and identified keyways to promote recovery in the country for Global Americans.

*Senior Associate Antonio de la Cruz* shared the implications of the EU’s Election Observation Mission in Venezuela for El Nacional.

**PAST EVENTS**

*Ensuring a More Competitive North America*, centered on how to improve technological innovation, expand internet access, and promote competition across North America.

*Establishing a Cybersecure North America*, focused on the primary cybersecurity threats facing North America, and how regional governments can increase cybersecurity cooperation.

*Supply Chain Relocation to Mexico and North American Economic Competitiveness*, explored Mexican and U.S. common interest in nearshoring supply chains to North America and assessed Mexico’s ability to play a major role in nearshoring.
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

**Bringing Supply Chains Back to Mexico**, Ryan C. Berg, Mariana Campero, and leading scholars from CSIS and the Peterson Institute for International Economics explore the feasibility and benefits of relocating supply chains to Mexico and the economic policies Mexico needs to succeed as a destination for relocated production from China.

**Latin America’s Democratic Recession**, Ryan C. Berg and Lauri Tähtinen assess the state of democracy throughout the Western Hemisphere twenty years after the signing of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and describe how the United States can take more of a role in protecting democracy in the hemisphere.

**Tussle for the Amazon**, Ryan C. Berg analyzes changing dynamics between Brazil's leading criminal groups in the Amazon and offers policy recommendations for the U.S. and Brazilian governments to combat rising crime.

**Panama’s Maritime Business and the Evolving Strategic Landscape**, Evan Ellis and Eddie Tapeiro explain how Covid-19, US migration policy in the Northern Triangle, and the U.S.-China great power competition are impacting maritime business at the Panama Canal.

MEXICO MATTERS

**Rebalancing Relationships with Former USTR Robert Lighthizer**

Mariana Campero speaks with former U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer about the goals that guided the creation of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), its benefits and limitations of the North American market, the issues behind supply chain disruptions, the importance of protecting jobs and livelihoods, and why Mexico matters to the U.S.

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**35 West**

The CSIS Americas Program podcast looks at the politics and policies of the 35 countries in the Western Hemisphere. It especially focuses on U.S. engagement with the region, whether on trade, diplomacy, or security issues like drugs and terrorism.

**RECENT EPISODES**

**Indigenous Communities in the Amazon Suffer from the Maduro Regime’s Environmental Assault**

*with Cristina Bureau and Luis Felipe Duchicela*

**Happiness in Times of Covid-19 in Latin America**

*with Gerver Torres*