



## Latin America and the Caribbean (Regional Project)

# Promoting Circular Economy via Quality Infrastructure

**Objective** This project encourages the cooperation of regional quality infrastructure organizations, namely the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT), the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and the Inter-American Metrology System (SIM) along with their national members in the field of the circular economy. They will strengthen their technical competencies, and also stakeholders of the circular economy will be sensitized to the benefits of quality infrastructure.

**Approach** Many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have achieved considerable success in their economic and social development in recent decades. However, economic growth has so far been associated with high social and environmental costs and led to the high consumption of energy and resources, which has exacerbated the numerous environmental problems in the region.

To be able to meet these challenges in the long term, a shift from a linear economy to a circular economy is required. Applying the circular economy concept increases resource efficiency through waste prevention, repairing and reusing materials and products, remanufacturing and recycling, thus minimizing the use of resources.

The transition towards a circular economy requires support services which strengthen the quality infrastructure. The contributions made by the various components of quality infrastructure – standardization, metrology, accreditation and conformity assessment – are important prerequisites for supporting research into new materials and products, developing innovative technologies and reliably and comparably determining the environmental impacts of production and consumption patterns.

At a sectoral level, the project focuses on promoting value-added food, plastics and construction cycles and aims to identify and strengthen the potential contributions of quality infrastructure within these cycles. The regional focus allows that the experience gained from working on individual value cycles is expanded.

The project is implemented in cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS) as the lead political partner and with the regional quality infrastructure organizations COPANT, IAAC and SIM, which constitute the Quality Infrastructure Council of the Americas (QICA). These three bodies are the project implementation partners.

**Impact** The project seeks to strengthen the competence of quality infrastructure which is needed for developing services in the field of the circular economy. To this end, the cooperation and networking of the stakeholders in quality infrastructure and the circular economy are promoted and monitored.

Through events and publications like policy documents, strategies and papers from sector initiatives, the project sensitizes decision-makers from politics, the private sector and civil society to the relevance of quality infrastructure for sustainable development.

By the end of the project, the quality infrastructure institutions should be able to support the circular economy by means of new or adapted contributions like tailor-made guidance, normative documents, tests, calibrations and certifications.

**Cooperation** The project's activities are closely coordinated with other donors in the region who are active in similar working areas.

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

**Term** 2020–2023

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