GREEN COMMUNITIES LAC ITA

Territories that connect.
Knowledge that transforms.
Communities that thrive.

UNCEM ITALIA

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News, knowledge and opportunities across Latin America, the Caribbean and Italy

EDITORIAL | A NETWORK IN MOTION

Water, forests, food, climate risks and development opportunities take different forms in each territory. Yet sharing experience, skills and knowledge among communities and institutions gives them new value.

Green Communities LAC–ITA · UNCEM Italia seeks to turn these connections into effective cooperation: more than news, it aims to foster mutual learning, joint initiatives and capacities that remain in local territories. This first issue brings together contributions from the nodes to strengthen the Network and, above all, cooperation with Italian Green Communities.

Participatory ENSO monitoring for 2026–2027 is one of the Network's activities, not its sole focus. Our wider agenda also covers territorial management, water and watersheds, agroecology, productive development, finance, governance and risk prevention. We want to show not only what is being done but what territories can learn and put into practice together. A preliminary cooperation proposal linking Latin American and Caribbean networks with Italian Green Communities has been developed for collective discussion at the next LAC–ITA Network virtual meeting.

Walter Ubal Giordano

ITALIAN EDITORIAL · GREEN COMMUNITIES ITALIA / UNCEM

ITALY · UNCEM | Contribution by Luca Lo Bianco

The development of an international Green Communities network, linking experiences in Italy with those in Latin America and the Caribbean, marks an important step forward.

Promoted by UNCEM, the initiative envisages communities joining the Mountain Partnership, hosted by FAO and of which UNCEM is a member, as well as launching a Green Communities Laboratory dedicated to exchanging local experience and territorial knowledge.

This represents important recognition of the role Green Communities can play in advancing development based on sustainability, economic well-being, social cohesion and efforts to address climate change.

At the same time, a section dedicated to the Network will be launched on the UNCEM website, initially available in Italian and Spanish. It will bring together materials, information and other content on the LAC–ITA Network and its initiatives, alongside experiences of wider relevance.

It will be an open space to share initiatives, strengthen cooperation and highlight the role of communities in the ecological transition and sustainable development.

LEARN MORE · Green Communities on the UNCEM website

IN THIS ISSUE Community experiences in Panama · Geospatial products and study opportunities in Brazil · Development finance in Bolivia · UWI–Toronto research in the Caribbean · Initiatives and partnerships among Peru, Uruguay and Italy.

Panama | Communities, territories and livelihoods

The 9 October 2026 earthquake (magnitude 7.5, according to the University of Panama's Institute of Geosciences) damaged buildings, services and infrastructure in several provinces. The photograph shows the earthquake's effects in Penonomé and underscores the value of community preparedness and coordinated responses. *Source:* PAHO/WHO, report dated 18 October 2026



Panama. Aerial view of buildings damaged in Penonomé following the earthquake of 9 October 2026. Photo: AFP via Agencia Andina.

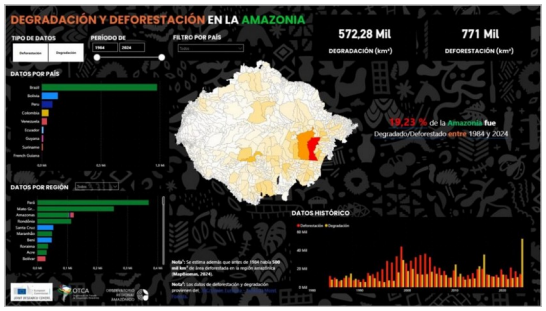
In an article published on 15 October, biologist and Guna community member Elliot Brown Rivera examines the move from Gardi Sugdub to Isberyala on the mainland. Completed for many families in 2024, this process grew out of earlier community decisions and addressed the need for space, services and adaptation to environmental and social change.

His contribution offers a key lesson: planned relocation cannot be assessed only by the number of homes delivered. Participation, water and other services, livelihoods, cultural continuity and the ability to evaluate outcomes over time all matter. This perspective can enrich other nodes' experience with adaptation and territorial governance.

IDEAS FOR EXCHANGE Community participation methods, post-relocation monitoring and assessment of living conditions. The experience described is that of the Guna community; the Network is not proposing new infrastructure construction.

SOURCE / RESOURCE Read Elliot Brown Rivera's contribution

Brazil | Geospatial resources for understanding and action



Brazil / Amazon. Official view of the degradation and deforestation dashboard of the Amazon Regional Observatory (ORA–ACTO). Image: ACTO / ORA.

The Amazon Regional Observatory of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ORA–ACTO, also ORA–OTCA) provides maps, data and visualizations on forests, fires, water resources and climate trends. The Brazilian node proposes using them to understand territorial risks and change, and to explore learning opportunities with other Network countries.

Their practical value lies in moving from access to data to questions that matter locally: which areas show signs of fire? How are water resources changing? What information could inform decisions by producers and local governments? ACTO makes these resources publicly available; this does not mean the organization is a member of the Network.

Brazil | Master's and doctoral studies in Amazonian sustainable development

Oriana Almeida, of the Núcleo de Altos Estudos Amazônicos (NAEA) at the Federal University of Pará (UFPA), highlights opportunities in the Graduate Programme in Sustainable Development of the Humid

Tropics (PPGDSTU). It offers academic master's and doctoral degrees across four areas: economic, regional and agrarian development; state, institutions and public policy; natural resource management; and society, urbanization and population. The programme received a CAPES score of 7. Scholarships are generally available for master's (R$2,100) and doctoral students (R$3,100), subject to eligibility, availability and calls. Applications normally open in the second half of the year; check official deadlines and requirements.

Calls: https://www.naea.ufpa.br/index.php/menu-noticias/451-ppgdstu-selecao-para-os-cursos-de-mestrado-e-doutorado

Source: contribution from Oriana Almeida, NAEA–UFPA, 29 October 2026.

SOURCE / RESOURCE Explore ORA–ACTO geospatial products

POSSIBLE JOINT ACTIVITY Choose a map, identify a local issue in Amapá and share the method with another node interested in water, forests or climate risk.

THE NETWORK IN ACTION / LEARNING AND RESEARCH

Bolivia | Development finance: learning to make decisions



Bolivia. Official poster for the specialized online course "Finanzas para el Desarrollo." Image: INESADX / INESAD.

INESAD, through INESADX, has announced an online course, "Finanzas para el Desarrollo" (Finance for Development), on financing sources and instruments for economic, social, productive and environmental initiatives. Topics include credit, guarantees, blended finance, risk and impact. It is scheduled to begin on 9 November 2026 and run for five weeks. Information and registration: https://www.inesad.edu.bo/2026/10/12/nuevo-curso-finanzas-para-el-desarrollo/. CLIMATE CONTEXT. Recent reports highlight drought and water-supply difficulties in parts of Oruro, Potosí and La Paz. In rainfed quinoa-growing areas, irregular rainfall, heat stress and insufficient soil moisture may affect planting and yields. The scale of any harvest impact must be determined from agricultural and meteorological data, rather than anticipating unverified losses.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION Early registration was announced through 6 November (Bs 750, based on information received). Schedules and conditions should be checked with INESAD. The course could help nodes develop projects and engage with funding institutions.

SOURCE / RESOURCE Official INESAD course and registration

Jamaica / UWI | Scientific cooperation across three Caribbean territories

The University of the West Indies (UWI) and the University of Toronto are supporting five joint research teams. We highlight three projects particularly relevant to exchanges among Network communities, linking science, local knowledge, adaptation and livelihoods.



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO Mohammed Basheer and Julia Kotzebue will study gaps between scientific flood-risk assessments and community perceptions through participatory planning.

BARBADOS Imara Ajani Rolston and Evangeline Innis Springer will explore resilient building design and agroforestry in the Scotland District.

JAMAICA Rachel Goffe and Marcus Goffe will work with JaBBEM and three north-coast fishing communities on territorial rights and community conservation.

CONNECTIONS TO EXPLORE Trinidad: participatory risk monitoring; Barbados: agroecology and resilient construction; Jamaica: fisheries and coastal protection in dialogue with Uruguay and Brazil.

SOURCE / RESOURCE UWI–University of Toronto projects

Peru, Uruguay and Italy | Connecting local capabilities



Lahuaytambo (Peru). Water storage reservoir under construction, lined with a geomembrane. Frame from a video shared by the node.

PERU · LAHUAYTAMBO AND THE MANCOMUNIDAD DEL VALLE DE LURÍN. Lahuaytambo's district municipality and Mayor Eduardo Quintano are promoting water-harvesting projects and plans to prevent debris flows (huaicos) ahead of possible heavy rainfall associated with coastal El Niño. Teodoro Rojas, founder of the Mancomunidad del Valle de Lurín (MdL), has been designated mayor of the neighbouring district of Tupicocha, according to the node. MdL authorities and members of Peru's Red de Agricultura Ecológica (RAE) propose exchanges with Italian Green Communities on watershed and drought management. Walter Ubal Giordano of the LAC–ITA Network plans to visit Lima on 5–10 November to meet MdL and RAE representatives and explore cooperation. More information: https://raeperu.org/.

XIX ENAE 2026 · HUARAZ. From 27 to 30 October, Huaraz hosted the 19th National Meeting on Ecological Agriculture (ENAE 2026). Producers, researchers and organizations discussed the agroecological transition, participatory guarantee systems, sustainable markets and healthy food, sharing territorial experiences and perspectives.

CONCLUSION. In Peru, agroecology is not merely a future aspiration: it is already a practical way to strengthen food security, climate resilience and local communities.

Uruguay · La Paloma | Fisheries, tourism and resilience



Uruguay · La Paloma / Rocha. A view of local life and initiatives shared by the node. Photo: Turismo Rocha.

URUGUAY · ROCHA / LA PALOMA. Artisanal fishing is an economic and cultural activity in La Paloma and Laguna de Rocha. A 2026 study by Universidad de la República examined how opening the sandbar affects ecological connectivity and fish resources. On 26 September, the municipality supported the Sabores de Rocha initiative, bringing together food businesses, fishers and tourism operators. Ahead of the 2026–2027 season and possible climatic variations, coordination among public institutions, private operators and communities is important for managing services in response to possible El Niño impacts. Proposed exchanges include official meteorological information and alternative activities for visitors.

Climate and territory | ENSO 2026–2027

On 8 October, NOAA reported that El Niño continued to intensify and estimated a probability above 83% of strong to very strong conditions through January–March 2027. This outlook does not predict specific damage: territorial responses must reflect official warnings, local exposure and each community's capacity. Our Network encourages shared interpretation and early action without replacing meteorological services. · Source: NOAA

Uruguay · La Paloma | Forecasts without alarm and tourism alternatives

Rainfall coinciding with periods of high tourism demand could create operational difficulties for some services. Categorical interpretations of seasonal outlooks should be avoided, as they can produce unfounded expectations. We propose using INUMET information and distinguishing three-month outlooks from short-range forecasts.

COOPERATION OPPORTUNITY. Local authorities, tourism operators and other territorial stakeholders could consider a visitor information bulletin linking to official forecasts and suggesting activities available on rainy days. This would be a voluntary initiative to provide useful information and coordinate services without presuming outcomes or suggesting institutional shortcomings.