



FORUM OF MINISTERS
OF ENVIRONMENT
OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



REGIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Reducing **methane** emissions from organic waste and closing **dumpsites** in Latin America and the Caribbean

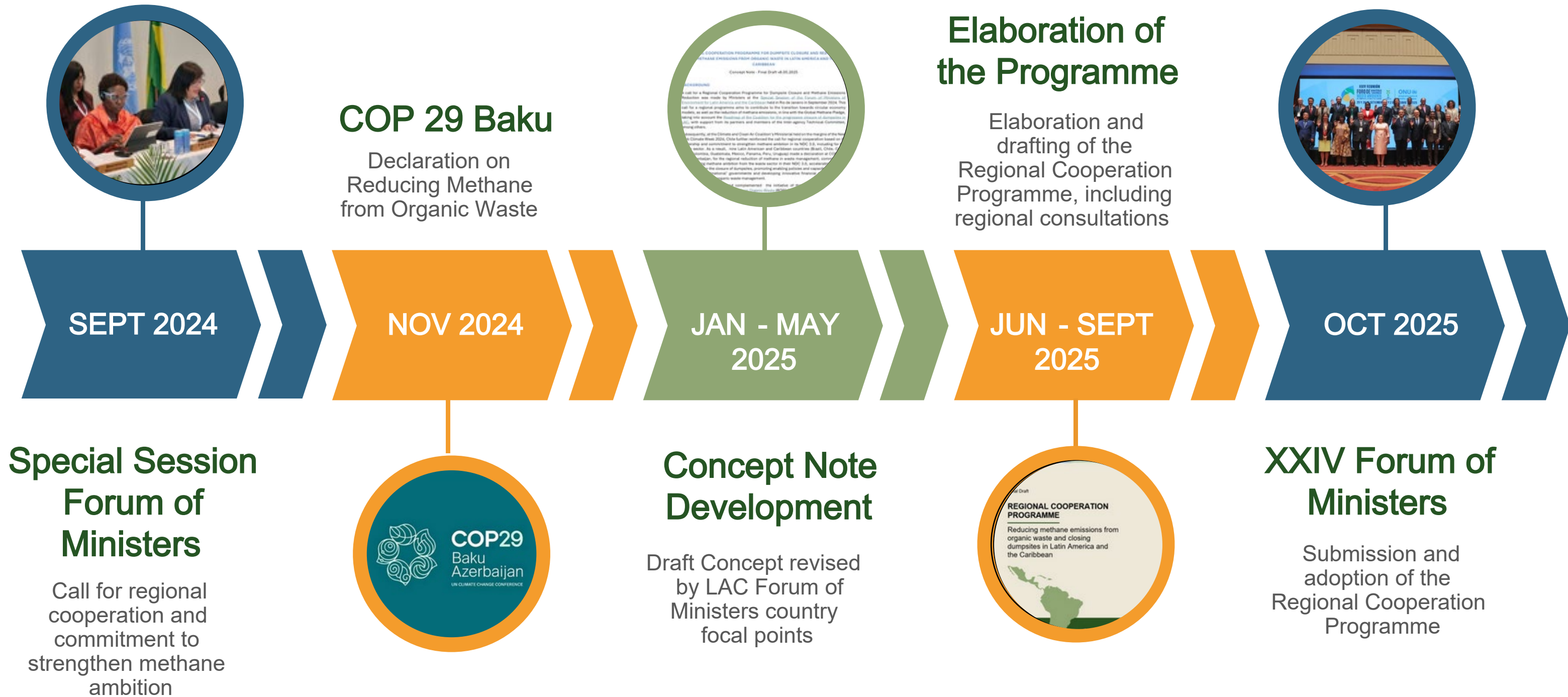
Session 4: Keynote Presentation: “A Shared Agenda: Regional Opportunities for Methane Mitigation in the Waste Sector”

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March 5, 2026



Background and development process



A political priority for the region



Special Session - LAC Forum of Ministers of Environment

Rio Janeiro, Sep 2025



COP-29 – Declaration on methane abatement and waste management in LAC

Baku, Nov 2025

A political priority for the region



XXIV Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean

Lima, Peru, 1-2 October 2025

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UN environment programme

1.

Introduction and Background



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Context in Latin America and the Caribbean



3.

Vision, objectives and Scope



4.

Areas of intervention and cooperation actions



5.

Implementation strategy



6.

Monitoring and evaluation



WHY THIS PROGRAMME IS KEY FOR THE REGION

1. Waste systems under pressure

- **234** million tonnes of municipal solid waste per year
- **45%** ends up in inadequate disposal sites

2. Untapped potential of organics

- **50%** of waste is organic, but **<3%** is used



3. Methane matters

- **80 X** more potent than CO₂ (over 20 years)
- Responsible for **~30%** of global warming since pre-industrial times

4. Landfills and dumpsites as methane hotspots

- **11%** of anthropogenic methane emissions come from landfills
- **+10,000** dumpsites in LAC lack gas collection systems

A SHARED VISION



By **2040**, Latin American and Caribbean countries will have **significantly reduced methane emissions** from the waste sector, **prevented the disposal of organic waste** in landfills, and **closed dumpsites**.

By **2035**, **divert 30% of organic waste** from final disposal sites, and establish separate organic waste collection and valorization systems.

By 2030, adopt national and/or subnational policies, strategies and plans to reduce food loss and promote the valorization of organic waste.

By 2030, have plans in place to phase-out and rehabilitate dumpsites, particularly those with highest methane emissions and posing the greatest risks to health and the environment.

By 2030, achieve a 30% reduction in methane emissions from the waste sector, in alignment with the Global Methane Pledge (GMP).

Objectives of the programme

General objective

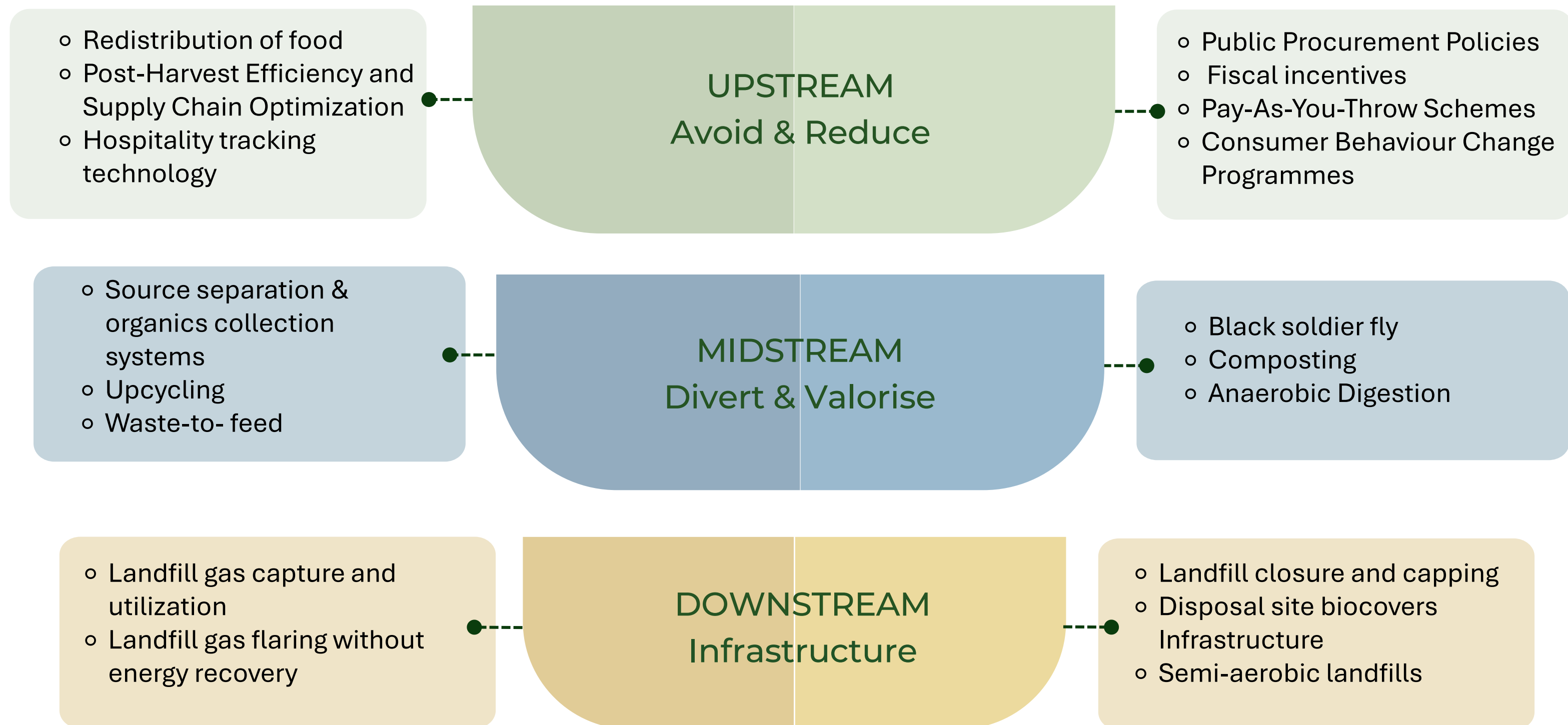
Contribute urgently and significantly to the **reduction of methane emissions from the solid waste sector in Latin America and the Caribbean** through the promotion of integrated solutions focused on avoidance, diversion, valorization, and the development of adequate infrastructure (ADVI) for organic waste management, as well as through improving disposal site operations and progressively **closing dumpsites**.

Specific objectives

- 1.** Support the alignment and mobilization of regional efforts to establish and implement the Programme
- 2.** Promote collaborative solutions to address shared regulatory, financial, and project -level barriers
- 3.** Deliver targeted cooperation, training, and technical assistance to implement methane reduction solutions
- 4.** Act as a catalyst for mobilizing technical and financial resources

Scope – A menu of solutions

The Programme encompasses **18** methane mitigating actions across the different stages of the waste mitigation hierarchy:



A.

Strengthening legal frameworks and enforcement.



A1. Develop a set of regional framework of **policies and regulations** to phase out dumpsites, reduce dependence on them and support methane mitigation in the waste sector.

A2. Develop a common set of **economic and fiscal incentives** to support the closure of dumpsites, drive methane mitigation from the waste sector and promote the separate collection and valorization of organic waste

A3. Develop a common set of **enforcement practices** in order to strengthen the actual implementation of existing or new regulations

B.

Enhancing institutional and operational capacity.



B1. Regional **Capacity-Building Programme** for Waste Sector Professionals in LAC

B2. Develop a LAC **Project Preparation Facility** for Methane Mitigation from Organic Waste

B.3 Promote development, adaptation and dissemination of **guidelines** for the closure of dumpsites

B.4. Establish a harmonized regional system for **data collection, monitoring, and reporting** (MRV) on waste management and methane emissions

B.5 Promote **awareness raising** and behavioural change

C.

Expanding finance for waste methane mitigation.



C1. Strengthening **domestic funding systems** to establish self-sustaining methane mitigation solutions in the waste sector

C2. Capacitate **financial institutions** to scale methane reduction financing in the waste sector

C3. Leveraging **external finance mechanisms** to mobilize additional funding for methane mitigation in the waste sector

Towards implementation

A. Coordination



B. Synergies and partnerships



C. Resource mobilization

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Position the Regional Programmes as a key cooperation and coordination mechanism in the LAC region on reducing methane emissions from waste and closing dumpsites.

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Maximise synergies, joint work and kind contributions of different entities, through the promotion of South-South cooperation to facilitate technical cooperation and knowledge exchange.

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Mobilize financial resources to support the implementation of Programme activities by developing project concepts and funding proposals aligned with Programme priorities.

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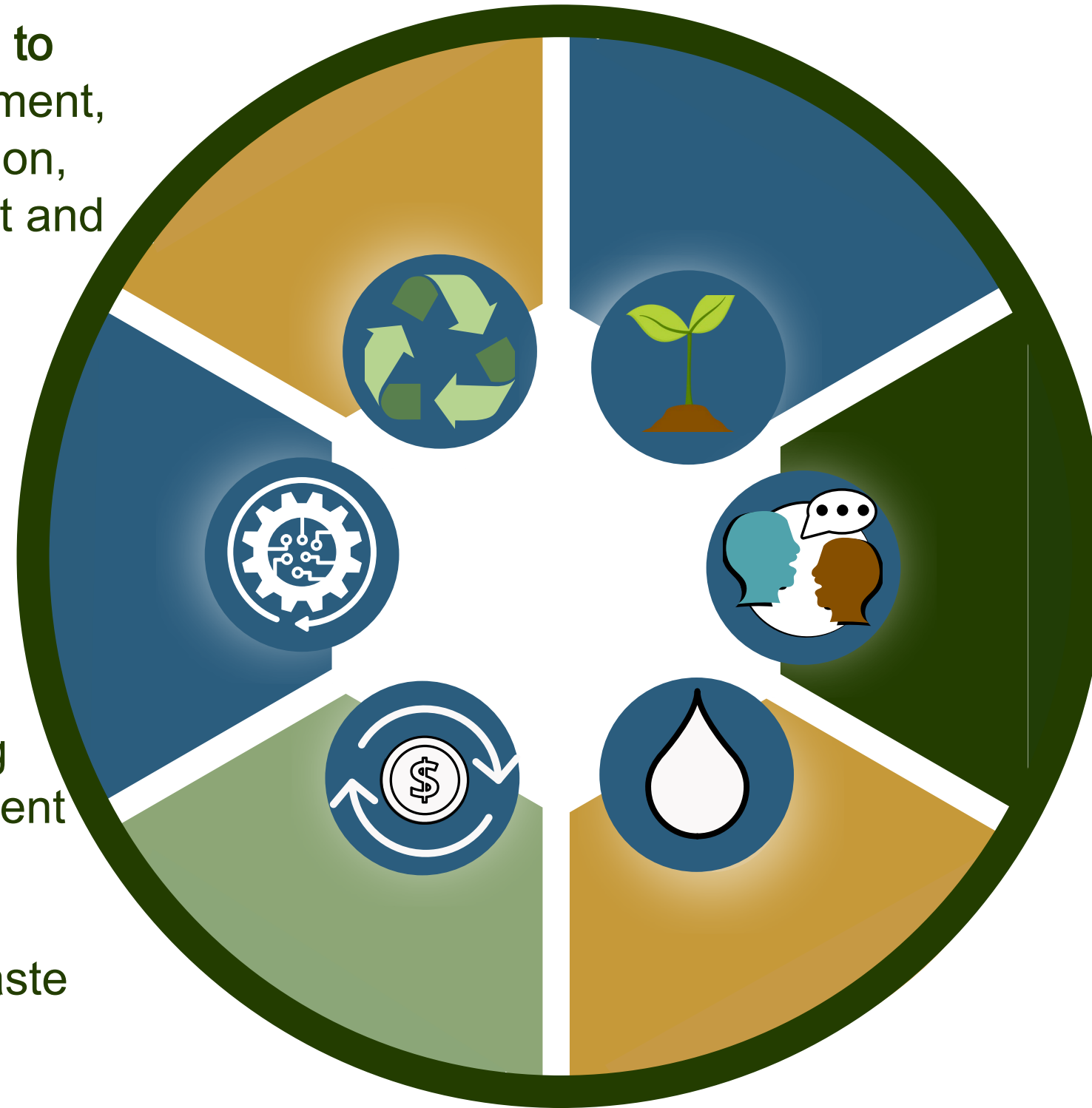
Establish additional partnerships with different stakeholders and entities to support the implementation of the Programme's activities

Expected benefits and opportunities

Shift from end-of-pipe approaches to integrated, circular waste management, prioritizing organic waste prevention, separation, valorization, treatment and safe disposal.

Proven and low cost technologies and practices that communities can operate and expand make this transition easier to scale.

Close the funding gap by mobilizing greater external methane abatement and circular economy finance, to build sustainable and scalable systems for managing organic waste



Strengthen agricultural productivity and food security by reducing food loss and recycling nutrients into soils.

Generate employment opportunities, fostering a just transition that recognizes and builds on the role of informal actors, providing them with protection and skills in circular value chains,

Improve air, soil, and water quality while reducing GHG emissions methane in particular, and black carbon.

Thank you!
Muchas gracias!



Download Regional Programme (EN):



Descarga Programa Regional (ES):