



# Colombia

## 1 Which bioeconomy-related policy strategies exist?

Colombia is home to about 10 percent of the world's biodiversity. The government has recognized the economic potential of the country's biological resources by putting considerable focus on fostering bioprospecting policies. With its strategy for the commercial development of biotechnology based on the sustainable use of biological resources (2011) ("**Política para el Desarrollo Comercial de la Biotecnología a partir del Uso Sostenible de la Biodiversidad**") the government bundled already existing policies on biodiversity and biotechnology. Earlier governmental initiatives related to

biodiversity are described by the "National Plan on Continental and Marine Biosprosecting" (2002) and the "National Productivity and Competitiveness Policy" (2008). Biotechnology has been identified as important driver of economic growth and social development by various preceding policy papers, including the "National Development Plan (2006–2010)", Colombia's "Vision 2019" (2006), the "Research and Innovation Policy" (2008) and the "National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy" from 2009.

## 2 Is the term "bioeconomy" or "biobased economy" used in the strategy documents?

Yes No

X

## 3 Who is the author of the strategies?

The biotechnology strategy was published by the National Council for Economic and Social Policy (Conpes), which acts as advisory body to the Colombian President. The council is composed of the Vice President, all Ministers, the Director of the

Administrative Department of the President and the Director of the government agency Colciencias (Administrative Department of Science, Technology and Innovation).

## 4 What are the key goals of the strategies?

The strategy seeks to promote the commercial development of biotechnology, while advancing the sustainable, commercial use of biological resources.

Biotechnology should contribute to economic growth and competitiveness by strengthening the country's domestic production base.

## 5 What are the priority areas of the strategies?

The strategy identifies bioprospecting capabilities as a key for further biotechnology development. In this respect, biotechnology should contribute to the creation of added value from marine biore-sources. In order to foster bioprospecting activities in Colombia, the strategy focuses on enhancing the country's institutional capacity through, e.g. strengthening the role of the Intersectorial Commission for the Commercial Development of Biotechnology, which coordinates the strategy implementation and monitoring process. The strategy further seeks to develop instruments to attract public and private investment in order to create an

enabling environment for entrepreneurship. By establishing funding mechanisms (including seed and start-up investment) the strategy intends to create incentives for technological innovation. Furthermore, it emphasizes the need to reduce regulatory barriers on the access of biological resources by adapting and reviewing the regulatory framework. Additionally, a national bioprospecting company will be founded, which would be responsible for initiating pilot and demonstration projects that could be adopted, especially by the cosmetics, food, diagnostics and bioindustry.

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### REFERENCES

Republic of Colombia. Consejo Nacional de Política Económica y Social República de Colombia. (2011). Política para el desarrollo de la biotecnología a partir del uso sostenible de la biodiversidad. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/measures/abs/post-protocol/msr-abs-co-es.pdf>