A Sustainable Legacy

Colombia’s president, Iván Duque, has overseen a whirlwind four years at the helm of the South American country’s government. The Covid-19 pandemic exposed long-standing and systemic challenges, but reflecting on his time in office, the outgoing leader is proud of a legacy of economic growth, environmental sustainability, and much-improved security.

A Peace Process with Legality

“As part of the ongoing peace process in Colombia, we have handed out 50,000 land titles to rural families, more than in the eight years before our mandate. We have invested historic amounts in rural road networks. Meanwhile, over half of all land mine removal took place during our government, and the process of reincorporation is moving forward apace.”

Bipartisan US relations

“Colombia has always had a bipartisan relationship with the United States. I had a good relationship with President Trump, and now I have a good relationship with President Biden, who has long supported Colombia and knows our country well. And good things are still coming, in terms of commerce, investment, and security.”

Leadership with Equality

At President Iván Duque’s side has been Vice President Marta Lucía Ramírez, the first woman to serve in the role in Colombia’s history. The trailblazing politician, who had previously served as a senator, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Tourism and Minister of Defense, added to her portfolio in 2021, when she became Minister of Foreign Affairs, and at a time of geopolitical upheaval. She speaks about the administration’s achievements at home and abroad.

Promoting Equality

“Equality is about opportunities, not tokenism. In the case of women, it’s about economic autonomy and being able to access the work market, for example. But we’ve also set up a school of leadership and political training for women, which has allowed women of all backgrounds to be educated in those fields.”

Business Confidence

“One of the things I’m most proud of is the relationship we’ve built with the business sector, that has brought in historic levels of investment. We’ve done so through smart reforms and bringing in international investment, which the US has been a key part of. Colombia is a country rich in natural resources, but which unfortunately never had the model of development to promote growth. That is different now.”

NATO Partnership

“We are partners with NATO, which – while not members – shows that Colombia is reliable, with solid institutions and on the right track. It allows us to collaborate on issues of security and drug-trafficking, and on economic fronts too.”
Coastal El Salvador, Puerto Rico, the Cayman Islands, and Guatemala.

The lessons that we have learned from the Venezuelan migration crisis can also be applied by the European countries that are currently responding to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees.

At its core, the 200th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Colombia and the United States is a celebration of a special relationship, one that is rooted in shared values, rise above partisan politics, and is reinforced by the personal ties between Colombians and Americans. Our two countries have worked together to promote prosperity through free trade, defend democracy through security cooperation, and ensure the protection of human rights through an unwavering commitment to fundamental freedoms. Our partnership has served as an enduring force for peace and stability, both in the region and throughout the hemisphere.

“Colombia’s economy is growing at 10.7%. It is the highest rate in the history of the country, and a great surprise that demonstrates the enormous resilience of the Colombian business sector, which enables it to get ahead in difficult times like the pandemic.”

BANCOCOLIA

“BancoColombia reactivates the equivalent of 50.3% of the taxes collected by Colombia’s inland revenue office (DIAN):

• US$1.027 billion in profits
• 35,000 shareholders
• 22,000 providers
• 27,000 banking correspondents with a presence throughout 98% of the country
• 25 million customers
• 15 million users of Nequi, BancoColombia’s digital banking platform
• US$1.5 billion allocated to initiatives led by women
• US$9.26 billion disbursed under environmental, social, and corporate governance criteria”

Juan Carlos Mora
CEO and President of BancoColombia

BancoColombia is one of Colombia’s largest full-service financial institutions, has been driving development in the region for decades. Headquartered in Colombia’s bustling second city of Medellín, its operations span wide, with subsidiaries in Panama, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, the Cayman Islands, and Guatemala.

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A fairer post-pandemic economy

“An environmental, social, corporate approach to supporting businesses in Colombia and abroad”

BancoColombia is perhaps the most sustainable bank in the world, and one of only two banks in the world, according to the Dow Sustainability Index. “Being the most sustainable bank in the world, on our first occasion, has become a public commitment to make the financial sector lead a conscious generation that gets up to work for good business for the country, for the people and for the environment,” the CEO and president explained.

“The economic reactivation must be comprehensively sustainable, which means firstly, it must be socially sustainable. We know that we must tend to the needs of those most vulnerable, and that meant a law of social investment to generate more jobs, especially for the youth and women. We knew we needed to support the small businesses too. Colombia, with a recovery that rivals many top-performing countries, has shown that a commitment to a sustainable economic reactivation works.”

A booming economy

“Colombia is vast and with various economic hubs. As such we have launched programs to support cities and departments beyond the capital. Last year the investment budget in Antioquia rose 33%, and that of Valle del Cauca rose by 46.3%.”

But there is still work to do

“Our 5.9 million jobs that we lost in April 2020, we have recovered 3.2 million. That is a significant 88.4%, but there are an additional 700,000 to recover. We still working on reducing unemployment.”

One of the best years in two centuries of US relations

2021 saw record figures in exports from Colombia to the United States, especially in non-mining products, showing that the relationship continues to grow and develop, as we work together the relocation of American companies from around the world, especially Asia, to Colombia.”

COLOMBIA REACTIVATED

Leading President Iván Duque’s stewardship of Colombia’s unstoppable growth is Finance Minister Juan Manuel Restrepo, who stepped into the role amid protests against inequality, after previously serving as the administration’s Minister for Commerce, Industry and Tourism. Overseeing the country’s economic reactivation has had its challenges, but created a more equitable society, he says.

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A Green Taxonomy

“Following an announcement by President Duque at the New York Stock Exchange in April this year, Colombia is now the first country in the Americas to publish a Green Taxonomy. This will allow us to fight climate change from a financial point of view and support business in doing so.”

Sustainability is not only part of our proposal but the base of our strategy."

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CEO and President of BancoColombia

AN OVERVIEW IN NUMBERS

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WHAT MAKES US UNSTOPPABLE?

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

73.2% of Colombian energy is green

30% of all B Corporations are in Colombia

LATAM leader in energy transition
- 51% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030
- Carbon neutrality by 2050

LATAM’s leading cargo and 3rd-largest passenger airport

The city of Cartagena is home to LATAM’s best-connected port

One of LATAM’s 4 OECD members and founding member of the Pacific Alliance

3rd-most populous country in LATAM
- 51 million inhabitants
- 15 cities of over 500,000 inhabitants

LATAM leader in the OECD’s FDI Regulatory Restrictiveness Index

Boosting exports and investments with:
- First-rate Free Trade Zone regime
- Special tax benefits
- Highest number of industrial parks in LATAM

Best Country in LATAM and 25th globally for entrepreneurs according to the WEF’s 2022 GEM

THE MOST WELCOMING PLACE FOR INVESTORS

THE HUB FOR THE AMERICAS

Privileged location for a main nearshoring hub
- In the center of the continent
- Ports on both the Caribbean and the Pacific
- Within 2 time zones of all major cities in the Americas

17 FTAs providing access to 60 countries and 1.5 billion consumers around the world

Celebrating 200 years of bilateral relations with the USA

One-stop shop services and red-carpet strategy for international investors

32% of all B Corporations are in Colombia

THE GREAT PARTNER

LATAM’s leading cargo and 3rd-largest passenger airport

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investincolombia.com.co
Medellín, WESTERN COLOMBIAN ANDES

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The highlands of Colombia, with its fertile lands and year-round mild climate, is a world heavy-weight in flower production, and Capiro is leading the charge.

The company produces 220 million chrysanthemums a year, with the United States, China, and the United Kingdom, their primary destination. Last year, Capiro took around US$40 million in receipts, and expects to increase revenue by five million.

Carlos Manuel Uribe, the president of Capiro, had little idea when he was studying engineering that he would join one day and run his family’s nascent business. “It was a hobby that kept growing,” Uribe said in his office in Medellín. “And it is 22 years now that I’ve been here.”

Capiro has also committed to sustainable environmental and business practices, with certification from watchdogs including Global Gap.

“We’re working across multiple fronts to become more sustainable,” Uribe said, adding that around 30% of energy used by the company is generated by its own solar panels. Every five years the company shares its water saving strategies with the Colombian government.

“We’ve halved our use of plastic packaging, and drastically reduced pesticides,” Uribe explained. Women’s rights are also a vital part of Capiro’s corporate culture, and the company is close to reaching the target of 50% of its workforce being women.

“We learned not to be afraid of a crisis and that you have to take each opportunity as it comes.”

Carlos Manuel Uribe, President of Capiro

Delivering joy across the globe

With decades of experience in the field of fresh cut flowers, Colombian company Flores El Capiro is the world’s largest grower and shipper of chrysanthemums, symbols of happiness, love, longevity and joy.

Our vision for 2025 is to consolidate ourselves as the main producer of high quality chrysanthemums, with integral logistics to supply the world’s major supermarkets and e-commerce channel, based on technological innovation and social, environmental and economic sustainability.

At Flores El Capiro we grow satisfaction.

UNSTOPPABLE CHARGE

Colombia’s economy is thriving, with exports up, and the worst effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in the rearview mirror. The government of president Iván Duque will leave office in August with a record of economic growth, a larger profile on the world stage, and a commitment to sustainability. His minister for commerce, industry and trade, Maria Ximena Lombana – a decorated business lawyer and diplomat – has been leading Colombia’s unstoppable charge. She sat down to talk us through some of the Duque administration’s legacy.

The world is waking up to Colombia

“Countries around the world have their eyes on investing in Colombian enterprises. We’ve got the third largest population in Latin America, and a network of 17 trade agreements which gives us preferential access to 45 countries with 1.5 billion consumers. One of our key challenges is to keep internationalizing our companies, small, medium-sized, and large, while working to make our state and administration more efficient. When president Iván Duque and I met with some of the biggest companies in South Korea last year, we were told then that they were interested in our agricultural and tourism industries, and this is just one example.”

Tourists are coming, and the country is winning awards

“Various governments have worked for years on transforming the tourism sector and our image abroad, but it’s not just about image, it’s about facts. In 2019, we had a record five million visitors to Colombia, and of course the pandemic has hit those numbers since then, but we’re happy with what we are seeing. Colombia used to always have a red travel warning, but that’s been lifted now. And what’s more, we’ve won World Travel Awards, as well as nine prizes, including culinary travel and LGBT destination awards, and this year we’re nominated for 22 more.”

Trading with the US, on the 200th anniversary of diplomatic relations

“We have a great relationship with the United States – our biggest trading partner – which is strengthened by our shared social and commercial principals, built over 200 years of international relations. We have a free trade agreement with the US, which receives 30% of our non-mineral exports, and we are our main commercial agricultural partner in South America. We’re also seeking greater involvement all the time, particularly in tourism and high-tech industries. And for those American companies that have subsidiaries in faraway places, there is obviously a huge potential for them to relocate to Colombia.”

“Colombia remains totally committed to [...] the Paris Accords, and to meeting reduced emissions targets in 2030 and 2050.”

A sustainable future

“Economic growth alone isn’t enough to build a more prosperous society. What we’ve learned from the pandemic, and battling climate change, is that economic activity can affect the environment. The Duque administration has worked on projects with the private sector that benefit the collective interest and incentivize success in environmental and sustainable terms, as well as financially. Colombia remains totally committed to the targets laid out by the Paris Accords, and to meeting reduced emissions targets in 2030 and 2050. We have learned that commerce can be absolutely sustainable.”
**Colombia: Gateway to the Americas**

Colombia, the fourth largest economy and third most populous country in Latin America, is fast becoming a major destination for international investment.

**The number of countries investing in Colombia has more than doubled in the past ten years, going from 16 in 2011 to 35 last year.**

As one of the region’s most stable countries with strong constitutional and democratic institutions that date back centuries, investments in Colombia are protected by a longstanding practice of contract security. The constitution guarantees that foreign investment in Colombia receives the same legal protection as local investment, and is permitted across all sectors, while the country’s ascension to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 2020 guarantees international standards are met.

The International Institute for Management Development (IMD) has classified Colombia as the second-ranked Latin American country in terms of personal security and adequate protection of private property. It is little surprise that each week brings three new foreign investment projects. The number of countries investing in Colombia has more than doubled in the past ten years, going from 16 in 2011 to 35 last year.

In 2019-2021, Colombia received US$30.850 million in FDI, 78% of which was in non-mining sectors, while in the same period, 453 investors from 50 countries informed ProColombia of the start of 570 investment projects. As such Colombia is increasingly being recognized as a hub of the Americas. The country has currently ratified 17 free trade agreements, promoting the investment atmosphere in the country. The Economist Intelligence Unit labeled Colombia one of the emerging economies of the world, and as such an attractive territory for the reception of foreign investment. And with the best infrastructure in the region – with eight high draught ports to the Pacific and the Atlantic that provide easy access to international markets. Major cities have total fiber optic coverage, and Colombia sits in the center of five regional time zones – again boosting the country’s prospects as a hub for the Americas, that allows access to production and export across the region.

Colombia also boasts a cutting-edge free trade zone regime with a set of incentives and benefits geared by the Colombian government to companies from all sectors making investments in the country. Benefits such as the exemption of customs duties (i.e., VAT and tariffs) for goods imported from abroad, and a reduced tax rate are intended to increase exports and promote more investment into Colombia. Likewise, projects worth over approximately US$300 million have a special regime that includes incentives including a reduced income tax, exemption from tax on dividends and equity and the possibility to sign a legal stability contract.

While the geography and contract security are important to investor confidence, Colombia’s completed and planned infrastructure projects offer foreign companies a golden opportunity to adjust to a post-pandemic supply chain, moving their manufacturing to nearer their consumer markets, or nearshoring. Colombia already boasts over 3,700 maritime export routes and access to 660 ports around the world, while Bogotá’s El Dorado airport is the largest airport by cargo movement in Latin America, and it is less than a six hour flight from any of the major cities in the Americas – including New York City and Sao Paulo, while only three hours from Miami.

Investment opportunities abound across multiple sectors. Markets – both local and international – for construction materials, real estate, infrastructure, electrical devices, software and IT services, are all growing in Colombia and looking for international companies to involve themselves.

Colombia is a regional powerhouse in agricultural products and food production, due to year-round production capabilities and wide and sustainable growth margins. Meanwhile Colombia’s processed food sector represents close to a third of the country’s manufacturing GDP. Owing to existing business networks, investing companies can become suppliers of raw materials for the development of
value-added products. Key opportunities touted by Colombian government include infrastructure such as cold chains, tertiary roads, collection centers and irrigation districts for commercial crop development.

Cocoa, a key crop across the country, is a particularly attractive opportunity for investment, according to government analysts, owing to its potential to become a relevant player in the international specialty market. Colombian cocoa ranks fifth in global exports of fine flavor cocoa, while it has already received international recognition in the Salon du Chocolat, the world’s largest international trade fair for the chocolate and cacao industries.

Meanwhile, the pharmaceutical sector continues to grow, with several companies identifying Colombia as a regional production and distribution hub. From 2018 to 2021, Colombian pharmaceutical exports grew in volume at an average rate of 3%, registering exports of over US$394 million in 2021. Investment partnerships for research centers in the veterinary sector, as well as the establishment of active pharmaceutical ingredient production facilities and plants for the packaging of vaccines are all new opportunities.

And as Colombia and the world transition to sustainable energy, similar opportunities for investment are bountiful. There are more than 185 power generators in the country open to strategic partnerships with investors willing to carry out construction and operation, across solar, wind and other sustainable technologies. Colombian energy infrastructure has been catalogued as the best in the region, according to the World Competitiveness Yearbook of the IMD.

The country was one of the 71 countries that submitted updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement by the 2020 deadline, reinforcing a commitment to urgent climate action. And although Colombia represents only around 0.6% of global emissions, its NDC is one of the most ambitious in the Latin America and Caribbean region thus far, and is closely aligned with the country’s objective of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Colombia will also restore one million hectares of land through Initiative 20x20, a Latin American partnership already supporting several projects in the country. Furthermore, Colombia is launching its Green Taxonomy, which will become a regional reference model for other emerging markets, hand in hand with the private sector.

A key component of the push towards environmentally sustainable development is the involvement of key sectors of the local economy that put out the most emissions, including agriculture, transportation, housing, energy and mining. The current energy transition is an ongoing example of Colombia’s commitment, where 2,800 MW will be reached at the end of President Duque’s mandate. Meanwhile, Colombia has passed legislation that has allowed it to have one of the largest electric public transport and cargo fleets in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Companies based in the United States have a particular advantage when investing in Colombia, given the two countries’ 200 years of bilateral, bipartisan relations that ensure maximum confidence. The US-Colombia free trade agreement contains flexible rules of origin, as well as no duty on many products and no minimum wage requirement in the manufacturing process.

Such opportunities for foreign direct investment are supported by the Duque administration’s international dealmaking to incentivize companies to get involved in Colombia. For example, the administration has deepened Colombia’s involvement in the United States- and G7-led Build Back Better World Initiative, which seeks to support worldwide infrastructure projects that are climate-resilient. Working with the US Embassy in Colombia since November 2021, ProColombia is working to identify new infrastructure projects, and has connected the State Department and the United States Treasury with Colombian ministries, including the Ministry of Energy and Mines, and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

The country also boasts highly qualified talent, ranking third in Latin America in terms of the availability of skilled labor in the 2021 IMD World Talent Ranking. Between 2001 and 2020, over 366,580 students graduated from science, engineering, and related areas, largely in the major cities of Bogota, Medellin, Cali, and Bucaramanga. This is backed up by an advanced system of communications networks, including 13 submarine transmission cables. A recent loan agreement program with the International Development Bank (IDB), totaling US$24 million, also seeks to boost investment in the export of knowledge-based services.

The legacy of the Duque government will be marked not only by economic growth, but also the sustainable manner in which it was achieved. In 2019, Colombia was among the first countries in the region to adopt regulations and guidelines for green bonds, and is ranked second in Latin America and 50th in the world in the Environmental Performance Index. Such sustainability will play to Colombia’s competitive advantages, that will ensure growth in the short and medium terms. Thanks to innovations and sustainability, Colombia is unstoppable.
ON THE MOVE
Transport Minister Ángela María Orozco has served in Colombia’s government in a number of positions throughout a career spanning three decades, including Minister of Commerce and president of the state agency for exports. Now, she is leading the charge to implement major infrastructure projects across the country, helping modernize Colombia and maximize its economic potential.

A new generation of roads completed
“The 4G network of roads – a network of modern highways across the country – had been practically stalled for a long time, across previous administrations. Now, despite the pandemic, we have been able to complete almost all of them, and are gearing up to work on the next generation of PPPs – we’ve invited investors around the world to get involved and see what we’re doing. Road infrastructure, and its construction, has also been a key component of the economic reactivation following the Covid-19 shutdowns.”

A vital tunnel opened
“When we came into office, a number of projects had hit headwinds. Few were more symbolic or important to wider transport and infrastructure than the La Línea tunnel, a project that had been practically stalled since 2015. When we arrived, it was half-completed – largely due to issues with contractors. But in September 2020 we opened the tunnel – the longest in Latin America, at 8.6 kilometers – which transsects the central mountain range of the country, connecting Bogotá, the capital, with western Colombia and the Pacific coast. The tunnel is part of a project comprising a 30-kilometer double-lane highway, that includes 25 tunnels, three roundabouts and 31 bridges, which has changed lives and livelihoods.”

Improved roads improve lives
“Aside from tunnels and highways, tertiary roads across the country are being paved for the first time or repaired. This allows rural and agricultural workers to better bring their products to market, and connects the entire country, while saving hours in lost travel time. A key road improvement in the coffee region, connecting local toaster and coffee growing towns with major hubs, has just been announced.”

Infrastructure transcends any political polarization
“In order to implement infrastructure, you have to work with governors, mayors, and parliamentarians, as they are the ones that best know their communities and are key to the success of public-private alliances. We have managed to work, despite any differences, with all these actors, keeping ourselves apart from any polarization or partisanship.”

International recognition
“This March, Colombia hosted the inaugural High Level Regional Dialogue on Transport in Latin America, which was organized by the Ministry of Transport and showcased both our progress and our commitment to regional cohesion on issues of infrastructure and transport. With 165 tunnels across the country, we also shared our expertise during the Worldwide Seminar on Road Tunnels this year, while our National Agency for Infrastructure won the 2020 EGC Global prize for the adjudication of the 5G road networks. All of this highlights Colombia as a regional leader in transport.”

Conscientious road users
“One of our greatest challenges is teaching road users appropriate speeds, and the risks associated with them. We’re also working – alongside various universities across the country – on making the driving tests more rigorous, so as to give us a better idea of where drivers are at.”

A comprehensive plan
“This year we launched the National Plan for Road Safety, which is aligned with the objectives and measures outlined by over 140 other countries, and ultimately seeks to reduce deaths and injuries on the roads by half in the next decade.”

Training the most vulnerable
“Part of that plan has led us to give trainings across the country, teaching 3,000 people so far – mostly motorcyclists and cyclists as they are the most vulnerable. Any road accident is ultimately unavoidable after all.”

A society wide approach
“We’re well aware that the only way we can affect change is by working across society, with the national government, local and provincial authorities, the private sector, academia, and each and every road user.”

Teaching a new generation
“At the recent International Forum for Child Road Safety we were able to teach young children about safe ways with roads, and that the bicycle is not a toy but a vehicle that comes with rights and responsibilities.”

MAKING ROADS SAFE
Formed in 2016, the National Agency for Road Safety (ANSV) replaced a previous system of road safety funds provided by insurers. Since then, it has become a vital institution for developing safer, more efficient roads across Colombia. Luis Lora, the agency’s current director, explained his priorities.

REMAKING THE MAGDALENA RIVER
The Magdalena River is the lifeblood of Colombia. Stretching 949 miles from the Colombian Massif mountain range in the Andes to the Caribbean Sea, the vast, sleepy river embodies the country’s winding and storied history.

“The projects need to mean transformation, both economically and socially…”
Pedro Pablo Jurado
General Director of Cormagdalena

I n 1813, revolutionary hero Simón Bolívar took control of the thral Avoca artery from the Spanish crown, one of the major battles that led to Colombia’s battle for independence. Gabriel García Márquez, perhaps Colombia’s favorite son, immortalized the river in his novel Tiempo Alentado, which told a fictionalized version of Bolívar’s final voyage, a reminder of the enduring mysticism of the river that first enchanted indigenous communities centuries ago.

Today, the river which runs two thirds of the length of the country, represents not only Colombia’s history but its future. Under the government of president Iván Duque, and with the leadership of the Minister of Transport, Ángela María Orozco, work has begun along the Magdalena to turn the river into a fully navigable route for cargo and passengers, revolutionizing infrastructure and economies across the vast and diverse country, and improving the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of riverine communities.

Leading the vast mega-project – one of the biggest of its kind in Latin America, and estimated to take 15 years and seven months to complete – is Cormagdalena, a governmental agency under the purview of the Ministry of Transport and dedicated to the modernization of Colombia’s river system, overseeing the herculean task of dredging the river, as well as securing investment for its completion.

“Recovering the navigability of the river would represent a huge impact for Colombia in terms of logistic efficiency,” said Pedro Pablo Jurado, the general director of Cormagdalena, who has over 15 years of experience as a lawyer, graduated from Universidad Externado de Colombia with an MBA in management from Kellogg NWI, and has been working in both private and public sector, starting his work in the entity as a delegate for President Iván Duque. Jurado adds that cargo could be transported along the river at higher volume and with lower costs. “And from a social point of view, it would bring with it the economic reactivation of the riverine municipalities and their communities, who will recover their identity in relationship with the river.”

The project – which will guarantee the river’s navigability 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – will provide a boon for such communities, who have long been cut off by geography from the economic opportunities that exist downstream. Not only providing a navigable river for freight, the overhaul will enable a massive rollout of social infrastructure in the communities that live along the banks of the Magdalena, with private and public investors already backing hospitals, clinics, colleges, public parks, libraries and cultural centers.

In order to guarantee sustainable practices, the government will work with rural farmers to promote alternatives to destructive and intensive farming and extractives. Cormagdalena has also been working with local fishermen to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining Colombia’s rich biodiversity and protecting its wetlands.

And the most important thing to remember is that climate change and respect for the environment are not just initiatives that we leave to younger generations, but they are also for present day,” Jurado said.

The riverine highway will also allow open up seldom-explored regions to tourism, helping to protect and preserve colonial outposts and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, will be readily accessible to tourists cruising along the Magdalena. The demand for services and products, from restaurants and hotels to souvenirs and typical dishes, will further boost the local economy.

“These projects need to mean something for riverine communities too, they need to mean transformation, both economically and socially, it can’t just mean that they’ll see a road built or a railway; it has to be an opportunity for them too,” Jurado said, adding that the Duque administration’s legacy will be lasting projects that improve the lives of all Colombians, regardless of their political persuasions. “Infrastructure today, under this government, beyond political colour and political polarization, has come to see as patrimony of all Colombians.”