



THE NEED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STANDING IN PUERTO RICO

Having access to **environmental justice** includes allowing people, communities, and environmental organizations to have the opportunity to demonstrate in courts and agencies if there is a breach of environmental public policy and thus avoid environmental disasters that threaten the well-being, economy, and the island's resilience.


Currently, many Puerto Rican communities are experiencing environmental damages but are not able to prove the suffered harms in court, costing them their health and well-being and impeding inclusive and sustainable development.


It is important to promote environmental policies in Puerto Rico because:


- Protect the health of people, animals, and marine species
- Increase resilience to natural disasters
- Attract new investment and diversify our market
- Promote new technologies and create jobs
- Improve the tourism industry
- Reduce costs and increase productivity
- Reduce the effects of climate change
- Provide investment security for people who live in risk areas, such as coasts and flooding zones



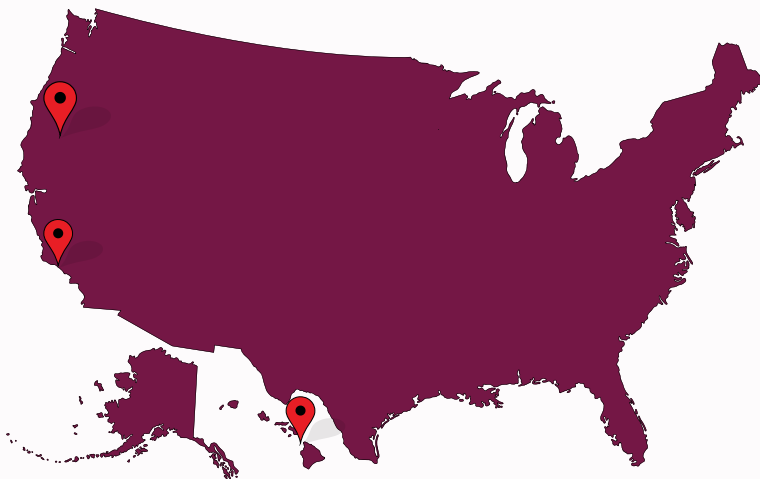
How has protecting the environment contributed to a sustainable economy in the United States?

 **California** has focused on investments in renewable energy and hybrid vehicles, achieving job creation while reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

 **Oregon** opted for the restoration of its natural resources by investing in the recovery of a protected species of salmon, generating jobs and positively impacting the economy.

 **Hawaii** established a goal to achieve the production of 100% renewable energy by 2045 in order to create companies and jobs in the fields of energy and construction.

Economic growth and the protection of natural resources are possible at the same time when environmental policies are combined with other policies and especially when they can be enforced in courts and agencies.



Sin un desarrollo sostenible...

- The world economy will face **annual losses of \$2.7 trillion** by 2030.
- If vital ecosystems collapse, 51 countries will experience an overall **GDP drop of 10-20%** by the end of the decade.
- The effects of climate change will imply **greater spending** by companies and governments.

It is important to promote all the necessary mechanisms for the effective defense of natural resources and thus promote the sustainable economic development and resilience of Puerto Rico.



References:

