

America

Constellation: AM Central C6

Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Belize



NEEDS

Continent: **America**

Constellation: **AM Central C6**

Country: **Guatemala**

Cry of the Earth

- deforestation in the Petén rainforest
- soil erosion
- water pollution

Cry of the Poor

- a predominantly poor country that struggles in several areas of health and development, including infant, child, and maternal mortality, malnutrition, literacy, and contraceptive awareness and use
- large indigenous population is disproportionately affected
- The distribution of income remains highly unequal with the richest 20% of the population accounting for more than 51% of Guatemala's overall consumption
- More than half of the population is below the national poverty line, and 23% of the population lives in extreme poverty
 - Poverty among indigenous groups, which make up more than 40% of the population, averages 79%, with 40% of the indigenous population living in extreme poverty
- Nearly one-half of Guatemala's children under age five are chronically malnourished, one of the highest malnutrition rates in the world
- efforts to promote accountability for atrocities committed during the country's internal armed conflict – which ended in 1996 – have had mixed results, and impunity for human rights abuses remains widespread
- Threats and violence against human rights defenders and journalists remain a major concern
- Gang-related violence is an important factor driving many people, including unaccompanied youth, to leave the country

Continent: **America**

Commitments

Constellation: **AM Central C6**

Country: **El Salvador**

Cry of the Earth

- Deforestation
- soil erosion
- water pollution
- contamination of soils from disposal of toxic wastes

Cry of the Poor

- El Salvador has one of the world's highest homicide rates, partially due to corruption and impunity
- State security forces have committed egregious abuses, including extrajudicial executions, sexual assaults, and enforced disappearances
 - fail to investigate crimes and collaborated with gangs
 - Gangs exercise territorial control, extort residents, and kill, disappear, rape, or displace those who resist them
- Girls and women alleged to have had abortions are imprisoned for homicide

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Country: **Honduras**

Cry of the Earth

- urban population expanding
- deforestation results from logging and the clearing of land for agricultural purposes
- further land degradation and soil erosion hastened by uncontrolled development and improper land use practices such as farming of marginal lands
- mining activities polluting Lago de Yojoa (the country's largest source of fresh water), as well as several rivers and streams, with heavy metals

Cry of the Poor

- Honduras is one of the poorest countries in Latin America and has one of the world's highest murder rates.
 - Journalists, peasant activists, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals are among those most vulnerable to violence
- More than half of the population lives in poverty and per capita income is one of the lowest in the region.
 - Poverty rates are higher among rural and indigenous people and in the south, west, and along the eastern border than in the north and

central areas where most of Honduras' industries and infrastructure are concentrated.

- Extraordinarily unequal distribution of income, as well as high underemployment

Continent: **America**

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Country: **Nicaragua**

Cry of the Earth

- Deforestation
- soil erosion
- water pollution
- drought

Cry of the Poor

- income distribution is very uneven
- the poor, agriculturalists, and indigenous people continue to have less access to healthcare service
- the poorest country in Central America, the second poorest in the Western Hemisphere
- widespread underemployment and poverty
- An enormous concentration of power by the executive has allowed President Daniel Ortega's government to commit egregious abuses against critics and opponents with complete impunity
 - In April 2018, massive anti-government protests broke out across Nicaragua. Police, in coordination with armed pro-government groups, brutally repressed protestors, killing hundreds, injuring several thousand, and arbitrarily detaining many
 - In the months since, the Nicaraguan government intensified its crackdown on civil society and the free press, stripping NGOs of their legal registration, shutting down media outlets, arresting journalists, and ending the mandates of several international organizations monitoring human rights

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Country: **Panama**

Cry of the Earth

- water pollution from agricultural runoff threatens fishery resources
- deforestation of tropical rain forest
- land degradation and soil erosion threaten siltation of Panama Canal
- air pollution in urban areas

- mining threatens natural resources

Cry of the Poor

- Panama has the second worst income distribution in Latin America
 - About one-fourth of the population lives in poverty
 - The indigenous population accounts for a growing share of Panama's poor and extreme poor, while the non-indigenous rural poor have been more successful at rising out of poverty through rural-to-urban labor migration
- Panama has expanded access to education and clean water, but the availability of sanitation and, to a lesser extent, electricity remains poor.
- Inadequate access to sanitation contributes to a high incidence of diarrhea in Panama's children, which is one of the main causes of Panama's elevated chronic malnutrition rate, especially among indigenous communities.

Continent: **America**

Constellation: **AM Central C6**

Country: **Belize**

Cry of the Earth

- Deforestation
- water pollution, including pollution of Belize's Barrier Reef System, from sewage, industrial effluents, agricultural runoff
- inability to properly dispose of solid waste

Cry of the Poor

- As the elderly population grows and nuclear families replace extended households, Belize's government will be challenged to balance a rising demand for pensions, social services, and healthcare for its senior citizens with the need to reduce poverty and social inequality and to improve sanitation
- Although Belize has the third highest per capita income in Central America, the average income figure masks a huge income disparity between rich and poor
 - a key government objective remains reducing poverty and inequality with the help of international donors.
- High unemployment, a growing trade deficit and heavy foreign debt burden continue to be major concerns