

Priority industries identified by the Ministry of the Environment for clean-up include: tanneries, lime producers, panela (block sugar) manufacturers, pesticides, artisan gold manufacturers, coffee and cocoa processing plants, and small foundries/quarries. Much of the problem enforcing environmental clean-up in Colombia comes from the fact that such a large percentage of producers are very small, inefficient, family-owned enterprises without the financial or managerial wherewithal to implement costly solutions to environmental problems. Hence, many environmental assessments will have to have a socio-economic analysis of the costs of clean-up.

Private sector participation in the operation and management of public service companies to provide potable water has excellent potential. Other promising subsectors include water pollution control equipment, air pollution monitoring and control systems, solid waste hauling and disposal equipment, and environmental consulting services.