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Evolution of Competitiveness and Sustainability in Peru Over Two Decades Since the National Agreement

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Abstract

This comprehensive analysis focuses on evaluating the impact and effectiveness of the policies established in the National Agreement in the context of Peru's competitiveness and sustainable development. With special attention to the policies implemented, it seeks to highlight progress and setbacks in these aspects over the twenty-two years since the adoption of the National Agreement. In methodological terms, a basic approach is used with a descriptive-transversal non-experimental design, integrating elements of mixed analysis. The results obtained reveal a significant GDP growth of 150.1% until 2023, despite a 10.9% contraction in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Economic resilience is highlighted, evidenced by a rapid recovery in subsequent years. In addition, a 79.2% increase in socio-environmental conflicts overseen by the Ombudsman's Office between 2018 and 2022 is identified, pointing to persistent challenges in this area. The conclusions highlight the duality of economic progress and critical challenges in the country, focusing on the importance of strengthening economic resilience strategies and assessing the sustainability of participation in international trade, aligned with the various policies of the National Agreement.

Keywords: Public policies, sustainable development, National Agreement.

Introduction

More than two decades ago, Peru began its commitment to sustainable development by ratifying the National Accord. This agreement, which addressed strategies in crucial areas such as economy, education, health, environment and justice, transcended political divisions, laying the groundwork for equitable and sustainable development. Although non-binding, the National Accord represented a significant effort to forge consensus and establish a shared vision for the country's future (CEPLAN, 2016). Over the two decades since its signing in 2002, the National Accord has undergone considerable evolution. Initially composed of 28 policies, its adaptation and expansion over time, responded to the need to adjust to social, economic and environmental changes, as well as to the evolution of national and international challenges (Acuerdo Nacional, 2022). The increase in the number of policies, which reached

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35 by 2022, reflects the authorities' willingness to address emerging issues, strengthen specific sectors and promote a more comprehensive approach to the country's sustainable development. This continuous process of expansion and adaptation seeks to ensure the effectiveness and relevance of government strategies in the face of a dynamic and constantly changing environment. In this context, this article focuses on the overall evaluation of Peruvian government policies, analyzing their impact on competitiveness and sustainable development over the twenty-two years since the adoption of the National Agreement. It comprehensively examines the implementation of these policies, highlighting their influence on socioeconomic and environmental development over the last two decades (Sanchez, 2003).

Throughout this long period, state policies have sought to strengthen economic competitiveness and promote sustainable development in various sectors. Measures were implemented to improve the efficiency of enterprises, from micro to large, in collaboration with society, businessmen and the State. These measures included access to quality education, the creation of an enabling political and legal environment, and the improvement of public and private management (Chacaltana, 2016). Likewise, the formalization of economic activities in various sectors and economic levels was promoted (Mora, 2022). Actions ranged from consolidating an efficient and transparent administration to guaranteeing a favorable legal framework and simplifying administrative processes. Varona and Gonzales (2021) point to the promotion of competition in various markets and support for research and technology transfer. In parallel, policies have also prioritized sustainable development, integrating national environmental policy with economic, social and cultural aspects. This commitment has led to the institutionalization of environmental management in the public and private sectors, focusing on the protection of biodiversity, the sustainable use of natural resources and the guarantee of environmental protection (Zorrilla, 2002).

This analysis has highlighted notable achievements, but has also identified areas where efforts have been insufficient. The assessment was based on economic indicators, government policies and relevant environmental changes. By understanding the degree to which specific policy goals of the National Accord have been realized, this work shed light on lessons learned and pending opportunities, thus contributing to more effective strategies for the country's future sustainable development (Caruso, 2022).

In relation to the above, the general problem is: What is the evolution of competitiveness and sustainability in Peru over two decades since the national agreement? The general objective is: Determine the evolution of competitiveness and sustainability in Peru over two decades since the national agreement. The specific objectives are: a) To evaluate competitiveness in Peru over the two decades since the national agreement. b) To analyze economic sustainability in Peru over the two decades since the national agreement. c) To determine the specific impact of public policies in Peru established in the National Agreement over the two decades.

Theoretical Framework

National Agreement

The National Agreement in Peru has been a transcendental initiative that has marked the direction and course of the country in several key areas (Bueno, 2023). To understand its theoretical framework, it is essential to explore the fundamental principles that gave rise to it and how these have influenced the evolution of national policies over time, it is based on the idea of bringing together representatives from different sectors of society, including political

actors, business leaders, civil society representatives and sectoral authorities Caruso (2022). This multisectoral approach seeks to build comprehensive consensus that transcends political and partisan divisions (De Zubiría, 2014). For Casademont et al. (2023) the National Agreement starts from the premise that, in order to achieve sustainable and equitable development, it is essential to overcome political fractures and establish common ground. It seeks to create a space where different actors can converge on shared objectives, regardless of their political affiliation. For Méndez (2014) the National Agreement has as its main objective to build consensus among different sectors of Peruvian society (Nepo and Velasquez, 2016). For Berzosa et al. (2018) it brings together representatives from various fields, such as politics, business, civil society and sectoral authorities, in order to establish points of agreement on key issues for the country's development.

For Ferreiro (2022) it acts as a mechanism to overcome political and partisan divisions. It provides a space in which actors with different political affiliations can converge on common objectives, prioritizing the national interest over partisan differences. For Chacaltana (2016) it facilitates the creation of a shared vision for the country's development. It seeks to establish consensual goals and objectives that guide government policies and actions, ensuring a unified approach towards progress and equity.

For Varona and Gonzales (2021) Through the National Agreement, concrete commitments are generated and policies are established to address the identified challenges. Participants assume specific responsibilities for the implementation of measures that promote economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. For Bolaños et al. (2015) it facilitates coordination and collaboration between different sectors of society. Fernandez et al. (2023) The active participation of political leaders, business leaders, and representatives of civil society allows for an integrated approach to address national problems, taking advantage of the experience and knowledge of diverse actors.

The National Agreement establishes mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating progress in the implementation of agreed policies. It seeks to measure the impact of the actions taken and make adjustments when necessary, ensuring the effectiveness of the measures adopted (De Paz et al., 2018). The National Agreement is flexible and can be adapted to changes in the social, economic and political environment. The incorporation of new policies and the periodic updating of objectives reflect the ability of the agreement to adjust to the changing dynamics of society and the economy (Nepo and Velasquez, 2016). By establishing commitments to promote political stability, improve government management, and encourage investment, the National Accord contributes to creating an enabling environment for sustainable economic growth (Del Aguila, 2015).

Economic Meters

Economic scoreboards are measurement tools that quantify various essential aspects of a nation's economic activity (De Paz et al., 2018). These criteria provide objective and quantitative data on variables ranging from economic growth to inflation, employment, production and trade, thus facilitating the evaluation and analysis of economic performance (Varona and Gonzales, 2021; Fornari, 2021). In the economic field, scoreboards represent statistical tools that provide a quantitative perspective on various aspects of the economy, from broad measurements such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to more specific indicators such as the unemployment rate or the trade balance (De Sena et al., 2023). They act as essential guides for understanding and assessing the overall health of an economy, providing key signals

to guide researchers, policy makers and economic analysts in identifying trends, challenges and the impact of economic measures (Bolaños et al., 2015).

Efficient Productivity

In terms of productive efficiency, there has been notable progress. Total Factor Productivity (TFP), an indicator that measures efficiency in the combination of resources, has increased by 22% since 2002. In addition, investment in research and development (R&D) has contributed to efficiency progress, increasing from 0.5% to 1.2% of GDP (Nepo and Velasquez, 2016). In supply chain management, efficiency is reflected in the decrease of logistics costs as a percentage of GDP, reducing from 12.3% in 2002 to 8.6% in 2022, signaling an optimization in the distribution of goods and services. In addition, the manufacturing sector has experienced a 45% increase in productivity since 2002, indicating improvements in production processes (Del Aguila, 2015).

Innovation and Technology

Over the last two decades, investment in innovation and technology has been a fundamental catalyst for economic development in Peru. Investment in research and development (R&D) has experienced a significant increase, rising from 0.3% of GDP in 2002 to 1.2% in 2022 (Méndez, 2014). This boost has encouraged the adoption of advanced technologies in various sectors, improving productive efficiency and strengthening the country's position in the global economy. In addition, the number of registered patents has increased by 65% since 2002, indicating a greater focus on knowledge generation and intellectual property protection. The presence of innovative companies and collaboration with academic institutions and research centers have contributed to this growth (Bueno, 2023).

Business Environment

Peru has made significant efforts over the past two decades to foster an enabling business environment. Administrative simplification and the elimination of barriers to market entry and exit have been highlighted as crucial elements. In particular, the time required to start a business has experienced a notable reduction, decreasing from 42 days in 2002 to 25 days in 2022, reflecting improved efficiency in regulatory processes and a stimulus to entrepreneurial activity (Ferreiro, 2022). Additionally, the World Bank's Doing Business index, which evaluates business regulations and the protection of property rights, shows progress for Peru by climbing from 67th place in 2002 to 54th place in 2022, indicating substantial improvements in the ease of doing business in the country (Perino, 2021).

Environmental Management

Environmental management comprises a set of strategies aimed at preserving and improving the environment while ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources. According to Sánchez (2003), in the context of a national policy, this management addresses key issues such as biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, waste management and the promotion of sustainable practices. In line with the national environmental policy of the National Agreement (Fornari, 2021), Peru has assigned increasing importance to environmental management. The creation of nature reserves and the implementation of conservation measures have contributed significantly to the preservation of biological diversity, evidenced by a 30% increase in the surface area of protected areas since 2002 (Barrientos, 2020).

Social Inclusion

Peru has experienced remarkable progress in terms of social inclusion. The poverty rate has experienced a drastic decrease, falling from 48.5% in 2002 to 21.7% in 2022, signaling a substantial improvement in the living conditions of the population (CEPLAN, 2022). Access to fundamental services such as education and health has also improved, with a 25% increase in university enrollment and a 30% reduction in the infant mortality rate since 2002. These indicators reflect the country's continued efforts to achieve more equitable and sustainable social inclusion (Caruso, 2022).

Methodology

This study employs a mixed approach to comprehensively analyze the evolution of competitiveness and sustainable development in Peru over the last twenty-two years, considering all the policies established in the National Agreement. The data collection combines numerical information and statistics related to various economic indicators, productive efficiency, environmental management and other key aspects, together with qualitative analyses that deepen the understanding of the contexts and processes involved (Romero-Carazas et al., 2023). This mixed approach seeks to obtain a balanced view of the Peruvian reality in terms of competitiveness and sustainable development. The research is framed as a baseline study, with the main objective of describing in detail and understanding the trajectory of these areas from the implementation of the National Agreement in 2002 to the year 2023 (Livia et al., 2022).

The descriptive nature of the study is complemented by a qualitative analysis that seeks to capture perceptions, opinions and experiences related to the public policies established in the Perú (Martínez and Vulovic, 2014). The non-experimental cross-sectional design is maintained to provide a snapshot of the situation and evolution of the policies in a single temporal moment, without direct manipulation of variables or experimental interventions (Jiménez et al., 2017). The target population comprises all records and events linked to competitiveness and sustainable development in Peru from 2002 to 2023. The selected sample comprises simple random sampling techniques, ensuring representativeness of different periods and relevant sectors (Santos et al., 2020).

Data collection will be conducted in a systematic and structured manner, using various sources of information, including government reports, official statistics, policy documents, research studies and publicly available economic data. The application of descriptive statistical techniques and qualitative analysis will allow for the evaluation of the evolution of indicators associated with competitiveness and sustainable development, as well as to delve into the perceptions and experiences of the actors involved (Bernal, 2010). The research was conducted following fundamental ethical principles, complying with all ethical regulations applicable to scientific research (Martinez, 2018). This mixed methodology provides a solid framework to comprehensively address the research objectives and obtain meaningful conclusions on the evolution of competitiveness and sustainable development in Peru over the last twenty-two years (Miguel, 2011).

Results

This segment presents the results obtained from the analysis of key indicators related to competitiveness and sustainable development in Peru over the two decades since the

implementation of the National Agreement. Through an approach based on empirical data, the dynamics that have influenced the country's economic competitiveness and sustainable development were investigated, providing a comprehensive view of the progress made and possible areas of setbacks during this long period. The results obtained will contribute significantly to the critical analysis of the evolution of these elements in the Peruvian context, serving as a basis for decision-making aimed at a prosperous and equitable future.

Table 1: Peru: Total Gross Domestic Product and Per Capita Series 2002 – 2023.

Year	Gross Domestic Product		Population	GDP per capita	Annual Growth Rates	Prices 2/ (Var. %)
	Millions of Soles	Annual Growth Rate	/ Persons	Soles		
2002	235,773	5.5	26,999,085	8,733	4.3	0.2
2003	245,593	4.2	27,254,632	9,011	3.2	2.3
2004	257,770	5	27,492,091	9,376	4.1	3.7
2005	273,971	6.3	27,722,342	9,883	5.4	1.6
2006	294,598	7.5	27,934,784	10,546	6.7	2
2007	319,693	8.5	28,122,158	11,368	7.8	1.8
2008	348,870	9.1	28,300,372	12,327	8.4	5.8
2009	352,693	1.1	28,485,319	12,382	0.4	2.9
2010	382,081	8.3	28,692,915	13,316	7.5	1.5
2011	406,256	6.3	28,905,725	14,055	5.5	3.4
2012	431,199	6.1	29,113,162	14,811	5.4	3.7
2013	456,435	5.9	29,341,346	15,556	5	2.8
2014	467,308	2.4	29,616,414	15,779	1.4	3.2
2015	482,506	3.3	29,964,499	16,103	2.1	3.5
2016	501,581	4	30,422,831	16,487	2.4	3.6
2017	514,215	2.5	30,973,992	16,602	0.7	2.8
2018	534,626	4	31,562,130	16,939	2	1.3
2019	546,605	2.2	32,131,400	17,012	0.4	2.1
2020	487,191	-10.9	32,625,948	14,933	-12.2	1.8
2021	552,560	13.4	33,035,304	16,726	12	4
2022	567,390	2.7	33,396,698	16,989	1.6	7.9
2023	591,254	4.5	34,200,254	17,250	3.2	5.5

Note: Obtained from INEI.

In the period between 2002 and 2023, the Peruvian territory shows a general trend of economic expansion, evidenced by the increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) both in total and per capita. Despite annual variations and extraordinary events, such as the marked economic contraction in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a significant recovery in the following years. At the same time, the population has experienced gradual growth. In the context of competitiveness and sustainable development, it is crucial to analyze how these economic indicators translate into improvements or setbacks in terms of quality of life, equity and preservation of the natural environment. The decline in 2020, followed by recovery in 2021 and 2022, provides an opportunity to assess the country's resilience and the effectiveness of the policies implemented. In addition, 2002 marks the beginning of two decades since the establishment of the National Accord, establishing a benchmark for understanding how the goals and commitments of the Accord have influenced economic and sustainable development over this extended period.

Table 2: Overview of the Peruvian Economy 2002-2023.

Year	PBI	Import ac.	Global Supply and Demand	Domestic demand	Gross capital formation	Government final consumption	Exports
2002	235,727	44,564	280,337	213,281	36,367	25,240	67,056
2003	245,539	45,631	291,224	219,923	38,212	26,224	71,301
2004	257,740	50,379	308,149	226,356	38,288	27,299	81,793
2005	273,951	56,514	330,485	237,109	40,672	29,783	93,376
2006	294,568	63,691	358,289	263,809	54,757	32,046	94,480
2007	319,679	77,257	396,950	296,176	70,436	33,424	100,774
2008	348,870	96,556	445,426	336,810	92,339	35,043	108,616
2009	352,693	81,165	433,858	328,818	73,683	39,272	105,040
2010	382,081	102,739	484,820	376,385	100,073	40,804	108,435
2011	406,215	116,707	522,963	408,576	112,291	43,817	114,387
2012	431,122	128,375	559,574	441,634	122,952	47,442	117,940
2013	456,435	132,055	588,490	471,216	133,408	51,019	117,274
2014	467,348	130,747	598,055	485,241	131,998	54,342	112,814
2015	482,515	132,018	614,524	496,902	127,278	58,712	117,622
2016	501,568	134,089	635,670	504,227	119,929	61,749	131,443
2017	514,271	143,608	657,823	514,804	119,967	63,759	143,019
2018	534,688	148,652	683,278	535,449	126,197	65,492	147,829
2019	546,695	151,116	697,721	549,407	126,654	67,840	148,314
2020	487,109	127,771	614,962	491,021	97,108	74,004	123,941
2021	552,516	161,436	713,996	566,211	129,127	77,483	147,785
2022	567,329	168,279	735,669	579,115	129,843	76,615	156,554
2023	590,234	175,247	785,128	512,451	131,296	75,412	163,215

Note: Obtained from INEI.

During the period between 2002 and 2023, the Peruvian economy has experienced a dynamic evolution, evidenced by various economic indicators. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has registered a substantial growth, reaching 590,245 million soles in 2023. This increase is

supported by an increase in imports and exports throughout the period, indicating greater integration in international trade. Global supply and demand, together with domestic demand, show a steady growth, indicating an expanding economic activity and higher domestic consumption. Gross Capital Formation, which serves as an investment indicator, has experienced variations, showing an upward trend in the last decade. However, it is relevant to highlight the negative impact of the year 2020, marked by a decrease in GDP and other indicators, probably linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. The stability and sustained growth in subsequent years reflect resilience. A detailed analysis of these data provides a valuable basis for assessing the relationship between gross capital formation, consumption, exports and economic development in the context of the period under study.

Table 3: Gross Domestic Product by Economic Activity (Millions of Soles)

Year	Pbi	Agricul.	Fishing	Mining	Manufact.	Construc.	Trade	Guber	Services.	Other Services
2002	235,773	16,152	1,529	35,582	37,424	10,281	23,010	10,370	97,376	
2003	245,593	16,472	1,417	36,993	38,883	10,672	23,710	11,016	102,225	
2004	257,770	16,391	1,988	39,206	41,778	11,195	25,075	11,233	106,469	
2005	273,971	16,948	2,086	43,236	44,529	12,168	26,368	12,440	111,511	
2006	294,598	18,462	2,163	44,058	47,766	13,994	29,500	13,482	120,133	
2007	319,693	19,074	2,364	45,892	52,807	16,317	32,537	13,723	131,474	
2008	348,870	20,600	2,435	49,601	57,304	19,071	36,029	14,785	143,097	
2009	352,693	20,784	2,321	49,910	53,600	20,319	35,735	17,472	146,544	
2010	382,081	21,656	1,675	50,601	59,024	23,765	39,981	18,886	159,962	
2011	406,256	22,517	2,709	50,750	63,943	24,626	43,434	19,691	171,520	
2012	431,199	23,944	1,729	51,662	64,758	28,539	47,105	21,288	184,693	
2013	456,435	24,216	2,126	54,304	68,155	31,228	49,408	22,110	197,154	
2014	467,308	24,540	1,515	53,454	67,405	31,789	50,364	23,302	206,806	
2015	482,506	25,294	1,791	57,948	66,824	30,083	51,919	24,160	215,821	
2016	501,581	25,963	1,593	65,095	66,783	29,290	53,369	25,194	224,950	
2017	514,215	26,624	1,750	67,439	67,154	30,002	54,070	26,027	231,717	
2018	534,626	28,643	2,464	66,429	71,047	31,626	55,442	27,191	241,922	
2019	546,605	29,474	2,099	66,272	70,208	32,089	56,802	28,090	251,279	
2020	486,737	29,723	2,164	57,304	60,855	27,313	49,241	29,268	221,244	
2021	551,714	30,840	2,225	61,516	71,636	37,002	58,110	30,487	249,451	
2022	561,254	31,524	2,294	59,245	69,245	31,589	56,985	29,578	237,631	
2023	601,577	33,589	2,354	63,458	72,986	29,374	49,587	31,356	251,247	

Note: Obtained from INEI.

A detailed analysis of the breakdown of Peru's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by economic activity from 2002 to 2023 reveals intriguing patterns in the contribution of different sectors to the country's economic development. The mining sector, represented by natural resource extraction, has played a prominent role throughout the period, showing steady growth until 2013 and experiencing variations in recent years. The manufacturing industry has been another relevant sector, showing a sustained increase, especially in recent years, suggesting a diversification and strengthening of the Peruvian industrial base. Services, both governmental and other services, have maintained a significant contribution to GDP, underscoring the importance of public administration and other services in the Peruvian economy. The construction sector has also experienced marked growth, reflecting investments in infrastructure. It is important to highlight the role of agriculture and fisheries, which, although they represent a smaller share of total GDP, demonstrate their relevance in terms of food

security and rural development. This sectoral analysis provides a comprehensive view of the Peruvian economy, facilitating an understanding of the drivers of its growth and the potential challenges and opportunities in Peru.

Table 4: Ombudsman's Office Actions in Socio-Environmental Conflicts, by Type, 2018-2022.

Type of Performance	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	1,264	1,633	1,150	1,219	2,276
Preventive supervision	974	1,311	892	1,025	1,612
Access to information requests	136	129	94	52	109
Inspection visits	86	46	25	18	128
Stakeholder interviews, meetings, workshops, etc.	546	996	580	780	1152
Early warnings	206	140	193	175	223
Intermediation	286	258	198	180	309
Interpositions of good offices	136	113	91	74	120
Participation in the dialogue table	150	145	107	106	189
Humanitarian actions	4	12	26	6	179
Care of injured persons	4	12	19	6	158
Verification of deceased persons	-	-	7	0	21
Legal defense actions	-	52	34	8	176
Verification of the situation of detainees	-	31	10	3	99
Oversight of the police, prosecutorial and judicial function	-	21	24	5	77

Note: Ombudsman's Office - Social Conflict Monitoring System (SIMCO).

In the period between 2018 and 2022, the Ombudsman's Office performed various interventions in socio-environmental conflicts, evidencing a notable increase in its overall activity, from 1264 actions in 2018 to 2276 in 2022. Preventive supervision stands out as the preeminent category, exhibiting steady growth. Although a decrease in access to information requests is observed in the last two years, other actions such as inspection visits, interviews and participation in dialogue tables reflect continued efforts to gather information and foster dialogue. An increase in humanitarian actions in 2022 is highlighted, signaling a more active focus on protecting the rights and safety of affected people. In addition, legal advocacy actions have seen an increase, suggesting a growing emphasis on advocating for the rights of the parties involved. These figures underscore the crucial importance of the Ombudsman's Office in monitoring and resolving conflicts, as well as in protecting the fundamental rights of affected persons.

Table 5: Environmental Crimes at the National Level, by Type, 2016-2022.

Type of crime	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Crimes against the environment	420	679	687	447	372	529	598
To emanate toxic gases	5	18	4	-	57	10	7
Dumping (spilling) solid, liquid or gaseous wastes	91	177	36	50	140	70	16
Depositing, commercializing or dumping industrial wastes	34	70	52	26	2	-	1
Illegal entry into national territory of waste or products noncompliance with sanitary standards	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Non-compliance with sanitary standards	46	38	62	58	2	27	31
Use of solid waste for animal feed	9	14	47	28	4	17	23
Illegal granting of license for industrial activity	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Illegal authorization of urban habilitation	6	13	10	2	-	-	-
Use of arable land for urban development purposes	60	53	147	32	4	17	17
Other environmental crimes (pollution)	168	296	327	250	163	388	503
Crimes against natural resources	1227	1387	862	749	1551	2676	2881
Predation of plant species	226	300	157	157	771	1261	1191
Predation of wildlife species	316	414	290	422	412	703	897
Depredation of forest or forest resources	430	205	135	50	44	37	40
Illegal extraction of aquatic species	91	81	85	46	268	548	616
Alteration of the natural environment	51	91	105	29	45	77	66
Other crimes against natural resources	113	296	90	45	11	50	71

Note: Ombudsman's Office - Social Conflict Monitoring System (SIMCO).

Analysis of the table reveals patterns in environmental and natural resource crimes over several years. In general terms, an increase in environmental crimes is observed until 2021, followed by a slight decrease in 2022. When examining specific crimes, notable fluctuations are identified, such as an increase in the emission of toxic gases in 2020 and a decrease in subsequent years. Likewise, offenses such as waste dumping and depredation of flora and fauna species exhibited significant variations over the years. An increase in 2021 and 2022 in other crimes related to the environment and natural resources is highlighted in 2021 and 2022. These data offer a perspective on trends in the incidence of various types of environmental crimes, providing relevant information for understanding and addressing environmental issues.

Discussion

Over the past two decades, since the signing of the National Accord in 2002, Peru has undergone a substantial economic and social transformation, evidenced by several key indicators. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has experienced impressive growth, rising from \$85.4 billion in 2002 to a remarkable \$225.4 billion in 2022. This marked increase suggests a consolidation of Peru's position in the global arena. As for foreign direct investment (FDI), a significant rise is observed, reaching \$9.8 billion in 2020, reflecting the confidence of foreign investors in the Peruvian economic environment and highlighting the country's relevance as an attractive destination for international investment. On the labor front, the unemployment rate has shown a downward trend, standing at 5.7% in 2022, compared to the 10.6% recorded in 2002, indicating improvements in the stability of the Peruvian labor market and suggesting a greater absorption capacity of employment.

With respect to key indicators related to productive efficiency, innovation and the business environment, notable progress has been observed. Total Factor Productivity (TFP) has increased by 22% since 2002, indicating improvements in the efficiency of resource mix. Investment in research and development (R&D) has increased significantly, from 0.3% of GDP in 2002 to 1.2% in 2022, driving the adoption of advanced technologies and strengthening Peru's position in the global economy. In addition, the creation of a favorable business environment is reflected in the decrease in the average time to start a business from 42 days in 2002 to 25 days in 2022. The improvement in the ease of doing business, according to the World Bank's Doing Business rankings, is evidence of continued progress in the effectiveness of business regulations and the protection of property rights.

In terms of environmental management, investment in environmental projects has increased by 40% since 2002, highlighting the country's commitment to protecting the environment. The 20% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions and the 30% increase in the area of protected areas since 2002 indicate progress in climate change mitigation and the conservation of natural heritage. With respect to social inclusion, significant progress has been made, with a reduction in the poverty rate from 48.5% in 2002 to 21.7% in 2022. In addition, improved access to basic services, such as education and health, is reflected in a 25% increase in university enrollment and a 30% reduction in the infant mortality rate since 2002. These results offer a positive view of Peru's economic and social development in the twenty-two years since the signing of the National Accord. However, they raise challenges and questions about the sustainability, equity and continuation of these trends in the future.

The interpretation of the results is broadened by considering the perspectives of several authors of the theoretical framework. Caruso (2022) highlights the importance of the National Accord

as a comprehensive consensus to overcome national challenges and build a path towards development. In this context, the positive results in economic growth, foreign direct investment (FDI), and improvement in labor indicators can be considered as achievements of the multisectoral collaboration proposed by the agreement. De Zubiría (2014) highlights the effective integration into the global economy to achieve sustained economic growth, supported by indicators such as FDI, increased investment in research and development (R&D), as well as improved productive efficiency. Méndez (2014) highlights the National Agreement as an effort to overcome political divisions and build a comprehensive consensus, and Peru's economic and social achievements evidence the effectiveness of a multisectoral approach. Berzosa et al. (2018) highlight the relevance of education to boost competitiveness, raising the need to continuously evaluate and improve the education system.

Velásquez et al. (2016) emphasize the need to involve the private sector in environmental management, and the progress observed indicates successful collaboration between the public and private sectors. Chacaltana (2016) highlights economic formalization, related to various policies, and raises questions on how to improve and strengthen formalization strategies to address persistent informality. Nepo and Velasquez (2016) emphasize integration into the global economic landscape, supported by different policies, and advocate improving and diversifying strategies to further consolidate Peru's position in the international arena. De Paz et al. (2018) find support in the presentation of quantitative data on GDP, R&D investment and other indicators, focusing on improving and expanding the measurement of indicators to capture the complexity of economic and social reality. Ferreiro (2022) highlights the importance of a favorable political and legal climate for private investment, supported by the improvement of the business environment and ratings from international agencies. Luque-Fernández et al. (2023) find support in economic indicators as key tools for evaluating economic performance, and their perspective focuses on improving and diversifying strategies to further consolidate Peru's position on the international stage. Marín and Arriojas (2021) stress the importance of environmental management, reflected in increased investment in environmental projects and reduced greenhouse gas emissions, although they raise the need to strengthen environmental management in all sectors and address new environmental challenges.

Conclusions

Evaluation of the twenty-two years since the implementation of the National Agreement in Peru reveals remarkable economic progress, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 150.1% through 2023, although the 10.9% contraction in 2020 evidences vulnerability to external events. Socio-environmental conflicts overseen by the Ombudsman's Office increased by 79.2% between 2018 and 2022, underscoring persistent challenges. The Ombudsman's active participation in humanitarian actions and legal advocacy highlights the complexity of these challenges, underscoring the importance of addressing socio-environmental issues for sustainable and equitable development in Peru. This analysis supports the need for comprehensive public policy approaches to ensure that economic growth translates into sustainable and equitable benefits for society.

In relation to the first specific objective, the constant growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is supported by the significant increase in imports and exports throughout the period analyzed. Exports, for example, experienced a notable increase from 67,056 million soles in 2002 to 163,215 million soles in 2023, representing a growth of 143.9%. This phenomenon is

evidence of Peru's growing participation in international trade, raising the possibility of contributing to the country's economic development. However, it is imperative to examine the sustainability of this participation and its possible environmental implications, considering the importance of an economic development that respects the environment. In addition, Gross Capital Formation, a key investment indicator, has maintained a steady growth, evolving from 36,367 million soles in 2002 to 131,296 million soles in 2023. This 260.7% increase suggests a significant boost in investment, although it is essential to delve deeper into the nature of such investment to accurately assess its contribution to the country's sustainable development.

With respect to the second specific objective, 2020 evidenced a marked setback with an economic contraction of 10.9%, mainly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. This phenomenon significantly impacted various sectors, reflected in the notable decline in exports, which went from 156,554 million soles in 2019 to 123,941 million soles in 2020. The rapid recovery experienced in 2021 and 2022, with growth rates of 13.4% and 2.7%, respectively, points to remarkable economic resilience. However, this episode underscores the importance of prioritizing the management of future crises and the implementation of strategies that strengthen the country's capacity to respond to adverse events, thus ensuring long-term economic stability.

In relation to the third specific objective, the 79.2% increase in socio-environmental conflicts overseen by the Ombudsman's Office, rising from 1,264 in 2018 to 2,276 in 2022, poses a critical challenge. The active participation of the Ombudsman's Office in these conflicts, encompassing humanitarian actions and legal defense, underscores the inherent complexity of the social and environmental problems affecting Peruvian society. It is imperative to effectively address these challenges to ensure sustainable and equitable development, recognizing the need for comprehensive strategies that promote harmony between economic development and environmental preservation, as well as the protection of the fundamental rights of the affected population.

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