VOLUME 70
20 JULY 2026

NEWSLETTER

A VISION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER COVERING LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ISSUES A PROJECT BETWEEN GREEN ZONE FOUNDATION AND TELESUR

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

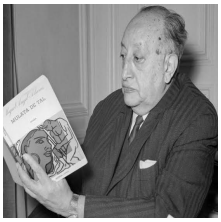
Puerto Rican Bomba Precursor Mario Cepeda Brenes Dies.

He was also a craftsman of bomba instruments, specializing in maracas.



Bolivia Celebrates Its Long Night of Museums.

The event gathers more than 600 activities and some 20 routes across six areas of La Paz.



Guatemala to Repatriate Miguel Angel Asturias' Remains.

The burial is scheduled for October 19, the writer's birthday and the day he received notification of the Nobel Prize.



Mundo Maya Tourism Circuit to Include Cuban Destinations.

Visitors will explore Mexican archaeological sites and Cuban colonial cities and monuments.



The 'Publish or Perish' Culture Should Not Shape Scientific Research: UNESCO.

Among the reforms are changes to scientific rewards, expanded equitable access, and connecting science with policy decisions.

GZ Language
Green Zone Foundation
omayma@gz.foundation
gzflanguage

www.gz.foundation/language

GREEN ZONE FOUNDATION

Bolivia Celebrates Its Long Night of Museums.



The event gathers more than 600 activities and some 20 routes across six areas of La Paz.

On Saturday, La Paz celebrated its “Long Night of Museums,” a cultural event that draws thousands of visitors to explore spaces such as the Italian marble side altars, the chapter house, and the main altar.

Originally scheduled for May 16, the event was postponed and used as an opportunity to expand the cultural offerings, with more than 600 activities and some 20 routes across six areas of La Paz, as well as culinary options.

Mayor Cesar Dockweiler emphasized that the event represents a “reunion” of citizens with their history and culture, and underscored the population’s commitment to their city after weeks of social tension.

One of the main attractions was the Metropolitan Cathedral of La Paz, a neoclassical temple whose construction began in 1835 and was completed in the 1980s in anticipation of a visit by Pope John Paul II.

The National Museum of Art, located in a colonial mansion that once belonged to the viceregal judge Francisco Tadeo Diez de Medina, also opened its doors with theatrical performances and guided tours about the building’s history and its collections.

Other highlights included Plaza Murillo, where impromptu recitals took place, and the National Museum of Archaeology, the oldest in the country, which houses thousands of pre-Hispanic artifacts made of textiles, stone, and metal.

The Long Night of Museums, which originated in Berlin in 1997 and has been celebrated in La Paz since 2007, has become a national cultural landmark. Since 2018, it has expanded to other cities such as Santa Cruz and El Alto.



Guatemala to Repatriate Miguel Angel Asturias' Remains.

The burial is scheduled for October 19, the writer's birthday and the day he received notification of the Nobel Prize.

On Wednesday, the Guatemalan government unveiled the design for the funerary monument that will house the remains of writer Miguel Angel Asturias, winner of the 1967 Nobel Prize in Literature.

The repatriation of Asturias' remains from France is scheduled for October, while Minister of Culture Luis Mendez explained that the memorial will be located in the gardens of the Miguel Angel Asturias Cultural Center in Guatemala City, as a permanent tribute to the writer.

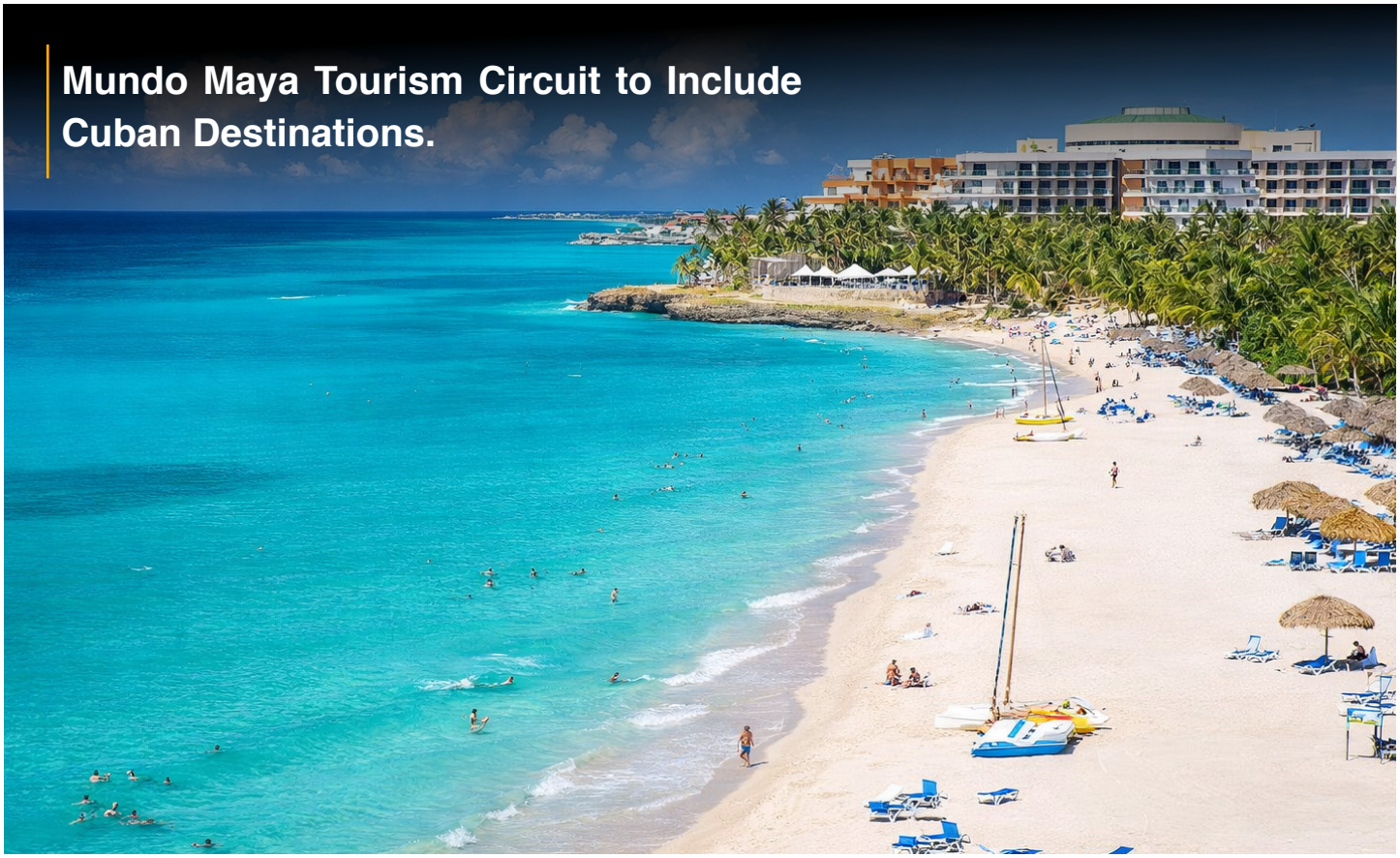
The design, by Guatemalan architect Alejandro Paz, consists of a contemporary pavilion with twin reinforced concrete beams, a metal roof, and marble elements, respectfully integrated into the existing heritage site.

Meanwhile, the Miguel Angel Asturias Cultural Center is internationally recognized for its organic architecture, which blends structures with Guatemala's topography and volcanic landscape.

The funerary project incorporates a sculptural piece inspired by a Mayan ballgame marker, establishing a symbolic dialogue between pre-Hispanic heritage and Asturias's literary work.

The ensemble will include a vertical metal element that will work as a beacon, projecting a beam of light at night to reinforce the commemorative and spiritual character of the funerary monument.

The burial is scheduled for October 19, the writer's birthday and the day he received notification of the Nobel Prize, with soil brought from all 22 departments of the country.



Mundo Maya Tourism Circuit to Include Cuban Destinations.

Visitors will explore Mexican archaeological sites and Cuban colonial cities and monuments.

Travel agencies Turismo Popular, Taino Tours, and Prelasa Tours signed a collaboration agreement in Mexico City to strengthen multi-destination tourism between Cuba and Mexico.

The signing ceremony took place at the Benny More Cultural Center and was attended by Aleinor Zerquera, Tourism Counselor at the Cuban Embassy. She explained that the first initiative will be the expansion of the “Mundo Maya” package to include Cuba, with a planned launch in August. The project coincides with the Josone Festival in Varadero, the Caribbean island’s main ‘sun and beach’ destination. It also aims to link the Mayan circuit with Varadero, as well as incorporate Havana and nature-based tourism products.

The counselor emphasized the importance of this type of agreement, underscoring that tourism is an essential source of income for Cuba. Taino Tours CEO Erick Gomez stated that alliances like this create opportunities to offer authentic and exclusive experiences in both countries.

Meanwhile, Prelasa Director Mario Escalona highlighted the mutual trust and commitment to strengthening the historical ties between Cuba and Mexico.

Beaches& Islands

The proposal will allow visitors to explore Mexican archaeological sites and heritage cities, complementing the experience with colonial cities, beaches, and monuments declared World Heritage Sites in Cuba.

Amid the U.S. blockade and economic pressures on the island, the initiative is envisioned as a way to reinforce cooperation and open up growth alternatives, consolidating Cuba within the Mundo Maya circuit.



Puerto Rican Bomba Precursor Mario Cepeda Brenes Dies.

He was also a craftsman of bomba instruments, specializing in maracas.

On Thursday, Puerto Rican musician and composer Mario Cepeda Brenes, known as “the voice of bomba,” passed away at the age of 73, leaving behind an invaluable cultural legacy.

Cepeda was born into a family fundamental to Puerto Rican bomba, a musical tradition originating in San Mateo de Cangrejos. He distinguished himself as a singer, composer, drummer, dancer, and bomba instructor, becoming a leading figure in the genre and a mentor to those who learned from his style.

He was also a craftsman of bomba instruments, specializing in maracas, contributing to the material and sonic preservation of this musical tradition with African, Taino, and Spanish roots.

Institutions such as the Rafael Cepeda School and groups like Labombava expressed messages of condolence and recognition for his artistic and cultural career.

The bust of his brother Modesto Cepeda, founder of the school, and the work of Rafael Cepeda Jr., a distinguished dancer who collaborated with Bad Bunny and Rauw Alejandro, keep the family legacy alive.

The bomba genre, which originated among African slaves in Puerto Rico, combines the buleador drum, cua, maraca, and primo drum, with rhythms such as sica, holande, and yuba, accompanied by the dancer’s improvisation.
LatinMusic

The song has gained new followers thanks to its inclusion in productions by contemporary artists such as Rauw Alejandro and Bad Bunny, who have revitalized its international reach and its connection with new generations.



The ‘Publish or Perish’ Culture Should Not Shape Scientific Research: UNESCO.

Among the reforms are changes to scientific rewards, expanded equitable access, and connecting science with policy decisions.

On Monday, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) presented the report “Science at a Turning Point,” recommending a reform of the reward system for scientific research, which is dominated by a “publish or perish” culture.

The document was released at the 2026 World Conference of the International Decade of Science for Sustainable Development (IDSSD), held in Paris, with more than 800 leading figures from the fields of science and politics in attendance.

The conference aims to assess the state of global science and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), two years after the launch of the IDSSD, with a positive preliminary assessment.
Among the attendees were Karin Herrera, Vice President of Guatemala; Mark Thomson, Director-General of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN); and Olafur Ragnar, former President of Iceland and President of the Arctic Circle.
Herrera emphasized that Guatemala is multicultural, multilingual, and multiethnic, and that integrating Indigenous knowledge with scientific research strengthens the capacity to address contemporary environmental, agricultural, and social challenges.

UNESCO reported that since the beginning of IDSSD, US$50 million has been mobilized across 397 initiatives in 79 countries, although imbalances persist, particularly affecting developing countries.

The report recommends five reforms: changing scientific rewards, expanding equitable access, connecting science with policy decisions, restoring public trust through inclusion and integrity, and governing new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) responsibly.


GZ FOUNDATION
GREEN ZONE FOUNDATION
teleSUR
www.gz.foundation/language
GREEN ZONE FOUNDATION
GZ Language
Green Zone Foundation
omayma@gz.foundation
gzflanguage