

EU-CELAC Biodiversity and Climate Change Working Group

i) Summary of activities and outputs

Four bi-regional workshops:

- *Santa Marta, Colombia: 4-6 March 2014*
This first working session focused on the identification of common priority topics including EU and LAC scientific communities' priorities.
- *Marseille, France: 26-28 November 2014*
This working session focused on the specific priority topics identified in Santa Marta, in particular on data management and assessment, and on the need to enhance public-private partnerships.
- *Bogotá, Colombia: 21-23 September 2015 (jointly with CORDEX-LAC)*
In order to address properly environmental challenges, this workshop focused on the need to improve interactions and to facilitate the share of knowledge between B&CC communities through share of knowledge and good practices, networking and training activities.
- *Brussels, Belgium: 28 February 2017*
This last workshop has put in perspective the EU-CELAC cooperation on B&CC in a broader international scale. Future opportunities for funding and exchange of knowledge were presented.

Participation and attendance to other meetings and events, in particular:

- COP 20 (Lima) – Side event on Alcue-Net activities on B&CC
- ALCUENET / ENSOCIO LA / IAI (Buenos Aires) – Environment seminar on climate services
- JPI Climate (Brussels and Madrid) – Presentation of Alcue-Net and conference on the definition of the JPI roadmap
- BiodivERsA (Lyon, France) – Working sessions on future joint activities
- ENSOCIO LA (Berlin, Germany) – Workshop on the identification of common priority topics
- CoP 13 Biodiversity (Cancun, Mexico) - Biodiversity and CC in LAC countries

Study on bi-regional bibliometric analysis

The results of the study were presented in:

- B&CC annual thematic reports for the SOM
- Scientific article in PLOS One (World's first multidisciplinary open access journal) <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0157441>
- BiodivERsA specific brochure <http://www.biodiversa.org/919/download>

Other key outputs:

- Update and dissemination of the list of common priority topics in appropriate formats (ERANET-LAC, European Commission DG RTD, BiodivERsA).
- Funding opportunities and synergies developed with bi-regional and international initiatives: BiodivERsA, ERANET LAC, CORDEX LAC, ENSOCIO LA, JPI Climate, EUROCLIMA, GBIF, Belmont Forum, Lifewatch, IAI...

ii) Main recommendations for future joint activities

To promote interdisciplinary research projects on ecosystem-based adaptation and resilience including Biodiversity and Climate communities.

Scientists should engage in true interdisciplinary research, at the crossroads of Biological, Earth and Human Sciences. They have poor incentives to leave their silo (publications, career) with little visibility about tools and methods developed in other communities. Providing interdisciplinary courseworks, programs and collaborations is essential to enhancing a socio-ecological approach in research projects to address societal challenges. As it was recently mentioned in the Declaration of Cancun (COP 13 to the CBD), Biodiversity and Climate communities are called upon to work together. There is indeed a strong demand to share good practices within institutions (universities, research institutes...) by promoting Biodiversity and Climate communities' exchanges and training. Several actions are envisaged to encourage incentives as developing calls at the interface between B&CC, or identifying pilot studies where combined B&CC approaches are needed to solve societal challenges. Policy makers and programme managers should push IPCC and IPBES experts to engage in the development of common argumentation and indicators.

To coordinate data acquisition and data management based on reliable, comparable and accessible data, and the use of existing platforms.

One of the major challenges for the bi-regional and international cooperation on B&CC is the strengthening of networks of environmental observatories so that multi-scale environmental changes can be soundly assessed and interpreted. Promoting small research projects on database analysis, involving research teams and infrastructures or synthesis centers from both regions, is a key component in strengthening the bi-regional and international cooperation. The use of existing platforms of information and data would allow avoiding overlaps and duplication of efforts (e.g.: GBIF, GEOSS, Lifewatch...). Joint projects should be encouraged to include short training events (summer schools, specialized training courses) on building databases, bioinformatics or data management plans. The improvement of data exchange and compatibility will allow the development of regional (large watersheds and mountain ranges) conservation programs and ecosystem management.

To involve stakeholders into research projects from the local communities to private sector in view of developing "Nature Based Solutions".

The complexity of socio-ecological systems and the fact that they are dynamic, call for a systemic approach to research, including the involvement of key societal partners (local communities, business, policy, and education). The EU Research and Innovation policy agenda on "Nature-Based Solutions" puts forward socio-ecological approaches to develop "solutions inspired and supported by nature that simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience". The deployment of such approaches should be encouraged to promote research on B&CC. This will also support the integration of stakeholders into research and innovation projects, from the local communities to private sector to support environmental sustainability. By including socio-ecological approaches to address societal challenges, B&CC communities will allow for the strengthening of the role of science to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

iii) Future opportunities for funding and synergies

BiodivERsA and Belmont Forum call (foreseen in late 2017)

Following the joint activities held by ALCUENET and BiodivERsA, in particular the bibliometric study analysis, LAC countries have been invited by BiodivERsA to participate in the forthcoming call that will be launched with the Belmont Forum on scenarios of biodiversity & ecosystem services (for a global amount around 20-25 Million Euros). Argentina and Brazil have already confirmed their participation.

EU-CELAC Interest group for bi-regional STI cooperation

