

ALCUE NET

Latin America, Caribbean and European Union workshop

Capacity building and networking towards better coordination of biodiversity
and climate change research

26-28 November, 2014 – Marseille, France

Wednesday 26 November 2014

Welcome and Opening

Jean-Joinville Vacher, IRD

Agronomic engineer, Jean-Joinville Vacher is Head of the geostrategy and partnership department at IRD. Director of research, specialist of bioclimatology, he worked on plants and crops systems adaptation to climate constraints in Mediterranean region and Andean highlands, on which he has published over 60 scientific articles and many chapters of books. He also has an extensive experience of research management and held the positions of IRD Representative in Bolivia, Director of the French Institute for Andean Studies and, more recently, Regional Counselor for cooperation at the French Embassy in Peru.

Chairman

Jean Albergel, IRD

Jean Albergel was appointed on September 1, 2013, Director of the CNRS – IRD joint office in South Africa. Before, he acted as IRD representative in Kenya and IRD coordinator in the Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (2006-2012).

Senior scientist in hydrology, he joined IRD in 1979 and spent most of his career in Africa; especially in semi-arid countries on both side of the Sahara. His research focused three topics:

- Infiltration, runoff and fluxes transfers, processes in cultivated catchments.
- Climate variability and impacts on water resources, crop production and environment.
- Ecosystem services impact and management of wet areas.

He has a long experience in EU Framework Programmes projects. He participated in many FP scientific projects in his specialty and coordinated the project HYDROMED (FP4), SOWAMED (FP6). Within the framework of cooperation projects between Africa and the European Union, he has been WP leader in INCONET projects and he is coordinator of the ERA-NET project ERAfrica.

ALCUE NET : Latin America, Caribbean and European Union Network on Research and Innovation

Luciana Ayciriex, MINCyT

Luciana Ayciriex works at the National Direction of International Relations of the Argentinean Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, with former 7th Framework Programme Projects and current Horizon 2020's, executed under the umbrella of the Argentinean Liaison Office for Enhancing Cooperation with the EU. More recently, since Argentina coordinates the ALCUE NET project in December 2012, she has been working as project manager to coordinate the activities of the project implementation Plan. She is also Argentinean National Contact Point for legal and financial issues in Horizon 2020/FP7.

The project ALCUE NET, funded by the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), which commenced on December 1st, 2012, proposed an initiative to support the political dialogue for Research and Innovation in order to establish a platform for EU-CELAC that brings together the actors involved in R&D information, funding and implementation, as well as other relevant stakeholders in the public, private sectors and the civil society. The project aims at supporting bi-regional political dialogue EU-CELAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI) during 2013-2017 (technical support structure) to reflect the suggestions and recommendations of the SOM working groups. For the first time a Latin American institution is the coordinator of a project dedicated to supporting INCO Net bi-regional dialogue.

ERA-Net LAC : EULAC network on joint innovation and research activities

Stephanie Splett-Rudolph, DLR

Dr. Stephanie Splett-Rudolph, Senior Scientific Officer at the DLR Project Management Agency. She is biologist (tropical ecology with focus on Brazil) by training. Since May 2008 she coordinates the North and South America Group at the Project Management Agency's International Bureau, which supports the bilateral S&T cooperation of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The North and South America team is involved in many EU funded projects such as the BILAT-projects with Argentina, Brazil and Chile as well as the INCONET ALCUE NET and the thematic projects ENSOCIO-LAC and EU-LAC HEALTH and coordinates the ERANet-LAC project.

ERANet-LAC is a Network of the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on Joint Innovation and Research Activities. It supports the political process of implementing the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI) which was adopted by the EU-LAC Summit in 2010 with the objective to foster scientific cooperation between the two regions. The project started in October 2013 and will run for 3.5 years. The consortium includes 18 partners from 16 EU-CELAC partner countries.

To strengthen the bi-regional partnership in Science, Technology and Innovation ERANet-LAC plans and implements concrete joint activities which are:

- Joint Calls for EU and LAC funding and innovation agencies. The 1st call was launched in September 2014 and will be open until November 26th, 2014. The call topics were endorsed by the EU-CELAC Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and cover the following thematic areas: Biodiversity / Climate, Bioeconomy, Energy, Health, ICT. The 2nd call will be launched by the end of 2015.
- Pilot Coordination Actions to promote mutual opening and coordination of existing programmes and infrastructures by identifying groups of institutions that are willing to open their initiatives to EU and LAC participation. The call for expression of interest was open from June 5th to October 1st, 2014. The organizers received 25 proposals with an average of 6 partners per project coming from 23 different countries which are presently being evaluated. The activities will be implemented as of January 2015.

To enhance the involvement of new funding and innovation agencies in the joint activities of the project and to establish an innovative and sustainable framework for future bi-regional joint activities, ERANet-LAC organizes a consultation process and creates an EU-CELAC Information and Communication Platform for funding agencies from both regions.

BiodivERsA: The network of national programmers and funders promoting research on biodiversity and ecosystem services across Europe

Xavier Le Roux, Senior Scientist (DR1) INRA

- Key role in the development of the European Research Area on biodiversity and ecosystem services as Coordinator and CEO of BiodivERsA (32 members from 18 countries), and member of the Steering Committee of the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy
- Leader of a research team at the Microbial Ecology Center of Lyon-Villeurbanne. Over 80 research papers in international, peer-reviewed journals.
- Member of The Academy of Europe.
- Member of several research programming and evaluation panels at national and international levels
- Director of FRB (2008-2012), a foundation set up in 2008 to bring together French public research bodies, the corporate sector involved in biodiversity management, environmental organizations, and business, and to promote biodiversity research and science-society interfacing.
- Scientific leader of a national scientific expertise on 'Agriculture and biodiversity' in 2007-2008.

BiodivERsA is funded by the [FP7 European Research Area programme](#) (ERA-NET) and will continue as an H2020 ERA-NET over 2015-2019. It brings together a network of 32 organisations from 18 European countries funding and programming research to help promote coordinated and effective pan-European research on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

BiodivERsA (i) produces comprehensive 'maps' of the state of biodiversity research in Europe, (ii) creates a common research agenda, focusing on key topics of common interest on a pan-European scale, (iii) launches annual 'calls', focusing on a specific theme, and (iv) promotes science-society/policy interfacing, and the dissemination of research results. Key achievements of BiodivERsA include a database identifying programmes and projects (>6500 projects) and mapping reports; 5 joint calls for a funding amount of €51 million to research projects, including one joint call with a JPI; a stakeholder engagement handbook; 6 policy briefs; enlargement of the consortium including overseas partners.

The Intergovernmental platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES): goals, work programme and links with the research on climate change

Jean-Christophe Vandevelde, FRB

Jean-Christophe Vandevelde is the scientific secretary of the IPBES French national committee. The IPBES French national committee puts together ministries (foreign affairs; research; environment), scientific institutions and relevant stakeholders in order to ensure the most effective participation of France in the IPBES process. In particular, Mr. Vandevelde coordinates the mobilization and the engagement of French researchers and experts within the different IPBES working groups and task forces.

Mr. Vandevelde holds a PhD in geography and environmental planning and is an associated researcher at the UMR GRED (IRD/University of Montpellier).

The presentation will address:

- the main goals of IPBES and its functioning;

- the 2014-2018 IPBES work programme, the different deliverables and working groups associated;
- the links, current and possible, with climate research and policy.

COP 20 in Lima / COP 21 in Paris – Opportunities for ALCUE NET

Benoît Martimort-Asso, IRD

Benoît Martimort-Asso is Head of Foresight and Strategy at IRD since October 2013. He was Director Development and Communication of IDDRI, an international think tank based in Paris, during 9 years. Between 2002 and 2004, he coordinated the European SUSTRA project, a multidisciplinary network on the links between trade and sustainable development. From 1996 to 2002, he worked in Canada on projects related to the treatment and the diffusion of environmental information for French-speaking countries at the Global Ecopolitic Observatory (UQAM, Canada). He worked as consultant for various ministries in France and in Canada, NGOs, research centres and private companies. Engineer (University of Perpignan, France), Benoît Martimort-Asso obtained a post graduate diploma in Environment and Prevention (University of Montreal, Canada), a master degree in Environmental Science (UQAM, Canada) and had completed the academic part of political science PHD program at UQAM.

The presentation will address the programme of COP 20 in Lima (December 2014) and COP 21 in Paris (December 2015) where there are opportunities for organizing side events on ALCUE NET activities on biodiversity and climate change.

The ENSOCIO LAC project

Mark Morris, Samui France

Dr Mark Morris is a chartered engineer from the UK, with expertise in water related research and consultancy. Mark has particular expertise in flood risk analysis, management and emergency planning and has participated in many European and International collaborative research projects over the past 20 years, including projects under Framework Programmes 4, 5, 6 & 7 in various roles from researcher, to research manager and project coordinator. He is currently Coordinator for the ENSOCIO-LAC project, supporting research cooperation between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, Mark is active in the area of knowledge broking, acting at the interface between research, industry and policy to promote the efficient use and uptake of research work. This also includes work with the UK Government in reservoir safety research, developing and promoting the European FLOODrisk conference series and developing an International Flood Risk Management Community of Practice.

The ENSOCIO-LAC project aims to support sustainable and integrated research and innovation cooperation between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean in the environmental field, namely in climate change, resource efficiency and raw materials; ENSOCIO-LAC will also help improve dissemination and the exploitation of research results in this area by different user groups. This will be achieved through networking and twinning of existing multilateral and bilateral projects funded by different sources, through the development of efficient interaction schemes between science, industry and users and the joint elaboration of future research priorities and joint activities.

Information to support EU-LAC cooperation in these areas will be made available through the ENSOCIO-LAC online Knowledge Platform. This includes details of recent and ongoing research

collaboration projects, funding opportunities and additional information and guidance to help support and encourage closer and continued collaboration.

More information can be found at www.ensocio-lac.eu

Biodiversity and climate change international cooperation in Horizon 2020

Zuzana Boukalova, METCENAS

Zuzana Boukalova has about 25 years' experience in applied research in water resources engineering, Integrated Water Resources Management, Flood Risk Assessment, groundwater vulnerability, and pollution control. Main research interests are related to impacts of drainage and land-use, pollution control, IWRM practices, water quality & quantity issues and flood risk management. She was the national expert for third countries participation in FP7 and act as the expert (member of the Sounding Board of the Commissioner Janez Potocnik for FP7 simplification) opening the FP7 programme in Latin America – Brazil. She was as well the expert of Czech Ministry of Agriculture on the River Basin Management Plans and implementation of the FLOODsite IP results in CR.

She is working as the external expert evaluating projects & programs relevant to Environment, Energy Efficiency and Water Resources Management for the Ministry of Industry and Trade (from 2008), for the Ministry of Education (from 2010) and for Technology Agency (from 2011) in Czech Republic. From 2012 is a member of the representation of CR for the preparation of Horizon 2020 programme, the area Environment and Climatic change.

References from international projects: FP5: IRON CURTAIN, IMPACT, TRANSCAT; FP6: FLOODSITE, ARMONIA, BRAHMATWINN; FP7: GENESIS, FLOODPROBE, ENSOCIO_LA and EUREKA projects GEMSTONE, NASYP, eGMS, FLUORSPAR, STORAGE, ALICE. National projects: Development of advanced technology for environmental protection and incorporation of this knowledge into new tools for better-integrated water management in the catchment scale (Technological Agency of CR).

The talk will focus on principal opportunities in H2020 (2015 calls) and principal trends for 2016-2017 work programme (related to biodiversity and climate change research). How to better involve the LAC research community through H2020 opportunities on biodiversity and climate change? (to be discussed during the round table).

ALCUNET / CORDEX workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change

Carlos Ereño, Univ. of Buenos Aires

Carlos E. Ereño received a degree in Meteorology from the Universidad of Buenos Aires and MSc degree in Climatology from the University of Wisconsin, USA. He led the Naval Meteorological Service, the Hydrographic Service of the Navy, and scientific consultant of hydrometeorological private companies. He has been involved in the development of the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and currently is the 1st Vice-chair of the IAI Executive Council. From 2001 to 2014 has worked at the International CLIVAR Project Office as Science Project Manager for the American and Asian-Australian Monsoon Panels. He is member of the National Academy of Geography of Argentina, the Academy of the Sea of Argentina, and also member of the Academic Council of the Buenos Aires Institute of Technology (ITBA). Actually, he is a full professor at the Department of Geography, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. He is the author of numerous publications specialized in climate variability and climate change in the LAC region.

A brief description of the mission and objectives of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and the WCRP Working Group on Regional Climate (WGRC) will be presented. Then, the Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling (CORDEX) program will be introduced.

As background to the proposed workshop some conclusions from the WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, Developing, Linking, and Applying Climate Knowledge, Montevideo, March, 2014 shall be mentioned. There will also be references to the workshops CORDEX LAC 1 - South America on Lima, September 213, CORDEX LAC II- The Caribbean, Santo Domingo, April 2014 and the ALCUE NET Thematic Workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change, Santa Marta, March 2014.

Finally, a presentation on the rationale, specific objectives, and anticipated outcomes of the workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change, as well as the propose venue and date and structure for its organization will be made.

Roundtable on building scenarios on the development of bi-regional and international cooperation activities

Olivier Dangles (Moderator), IRD

Olivier Dangles is the representative of the IRD in Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela. As an ecologist, He has a broad interest in research related to biodiversity and climate change in the tropical Andean region from lowland rainforest to agro-ecosystems to alpine ecosystems on both terrestrial and aquatic realms.

Thursday 27 November 2014

Observatories network and climate change research in EU - LAC

Dr. Carlos Patiño-Gomez, CONACYT UDLAP

Dr. Carlos Patiño-Gómez received the PhD and Post-PhD from the Environmental and Civil Engineering Department at the University of Texas at Austin. He was the deputy coordinator of integrated water management department and coordinator of climate change group in the Mexican Institute of Water Technology. He has participated as: Leader of research projects related with water planning and management in transboundary river basins between Mexico and the United States of America; Leader of research projects related with water planning and management in the Mexican hydrological river basins. He has participated as invited main speaker in several conferences on Climate Change Effects on the Mexican Water Resources in Mexico and Latin America. Also, main speaker in several water planning and management conferences in Mexico. Participation in the Inter-ministerial Committee of Climate Change of Mexico. Leader of several projects about climate change effects in the Mexican water resources. Actually, he is the Coordinator of Water Science Graduate Program and a full professor at the Universidad de la Americas Puebla, working on water, biodiversity and climate change projects.

Based on evidence recognized by the international scientific community, climate change is already an unquestionable reality whose first effects are beginning to be measured. Available climate projections and models help anticipate potential far-reaching consequences for development processes. Climatic transformations will impact the environment, biodiversity and water resources, and particularly will put several productive processes at risk; and will represent a threat for public health and water availability in quantity and quality. For the reasons mentioned before, it is urgently to share knowledge and successfully experiences on projects in the European Union and Latin American Countries, implementing a common platform from where researchers and decision makers could get the latest information about climate change scenarios, vulnerability assessments and adaptation measures proposed to diminish the negative effect of climate change.

ECOSCOPE - Network of biodiversity research observatories

Aurélie Delavaud, FRB

Aurélie Delavaud puts her knowledge in biological sciences (Dr. in veterinary medicine) and her skills in project management (master's degree) to serve research projects of common interest and concerning biology and biodiversity. She has contributed to national and international research infrastructures dedicated to biological resources centers (Inserm), databases and taxonomic catalogues (MNHN). She joined the French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB) in 2013 as the operational coordinator of ECOSCOPE.

In order to enhance understanding of the state and dynamics of biodiversity, the scientific community requires structured and complementary data collected on a long-term basis. It is essential to compare biological information with other types of environmental or socio-economic data. ECOSCOPE is structuring an integrated research observation network on biodiversity. The main aim of this multi-organizational project is to coordinate and reinforce observatories to promote links between data producers and users and to improve data collection, management and (re)use.

The approach is founded on the complementarity of the different observations and the network includes a wide diversity of biodiversity research observatories, taking into account all of the levels of biodiversity (from the infra-specific to ecosystems), involving multiple actors (researchers, citizens sciences, socio-economic actors) and integrating complementary data.

These data should be used by :

- researchers to enhance joint analyses, the production of models and scenarios.
- experts providing information for synthesis and overviews to assist policy decision making.

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF): free and open access to biodiversity data

Anne-Sophie Archambeau, GBIF

Anne-Sophie Archambeau received a Phd in oceanography. She worked as research engineer in data valorisation at CNRS (environmental data) and then at the IRD. She works at the GBIF France, as node manager, since 2008.

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF, www.gbif.org) is an international organization working to make the world's biodiversity data accessible anywhere in the world. Currently, 53 countries and 41 international organizations share their data and catalyzed agreements on many of the standards and protocols required to make disparate datasets compatible. Over 517 million of

scientific data records from over 13800 datasets from 614 institutions worldwide are now accessible through the GBIF portal (www.gbif.org). The two types of data currently being shared are:

- Species occurrence records (based on specimens and observations) - information about the occurrence of species at particular times and places.
- Names and classifications of organisms - information on the names (both scientific and common) used for species and on the classification of those organisms into taxonomic hierarchies.

Most of the data shared by the GBIF network can be mapped geospatially, which allows a vast array of analysis. Different web services are also available and can be reused by others applications.

A GBIF Capacity Enhancement Support Programme is launched every year to address specific capacity needs identified by Participants by facilitating capacity transfer and collaboration at the regional and global levels. GBIF has many links with international network such as GEOSS, IPBES, EUBON... The national GBIF nodes promote the GBIF activities at national and regional levels and help data publishers to connect their data to the GBIF portal. (list of contacts : <http://www.gbif.org/contact/directoryofcontacts>)

The BION Biodiversity Network – linking stakeholder from local, national, and international organizations

Jens Mutke, Univ of Bonn

Senior Scientist at the Nees Institute for Biodiversity of Plants, University of Bonn, Member of the Scientific Committee of DIVERSITAS Deutschland; Botanist with a focus on Conservation Biogeography, Macroecology, and Tropical Ecology

Since 2013, BION – the Biodiversity Network Bonn connects 55 organizations located in Bonn and surroundings including UN organizations, Federal and State Ministries and Agencies, Universities and Research Institutions, NGOs, , as well as e.g., the City of Bonn. Funded by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation with Funds from the Ministry for the Environment, the interdisciplinary partners address topics such as Basic Research, Monitoring and Assessment, Capacity Building, Ethics, Societal Impact, Biodiversity and Human Development, or Public Awareness. In September 2014, the 1st international BION conference brought together 300 participants from academia and practice from 38 countries and 112 institutions. Several project initiatives have been developed: e.g., a Biodiversity Conservatory for on-farm conservation of local genetic resources, a program for joint practical formation of “conservation horticulturalists” targeted at applicants from South America and Africa, the development of automated multi-sensor biodiversity monitoring stations, or a study on Biodiversity and Cultural Heritage in NW Peru.

The French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB)

Jean-François Silvain, FRB President

Jean-François Silvain is senior scientist (Director of research) at IRD. He is the head of the IRD Research unit R 072 “ Biodiversity & evolution of plants-pest insects-antagonists complexes” (BEI). The BEI research unit is currently mostly involved in research dealing with responses of tropical insects to global changes. Jean-François Silvain mostly worked on molecular faunistics, molecular systematics and phylogeny of tropical phytophagous insects with special interest for population genetics and phylogeography of tropical phytophagous insects, including invasive species.

Between 2008 and 2013 Jean-François Silvain has been the chairman of the Scientific Committee of the French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB). He drove the FRB Strategy on research on biodiversity released in 2009. Jean-François Silvain has been elected as president of the FRB in April 2014 for a three years mandate. He has been President of the Evaluation Committee of the 2009 Biodiversity call (“6th Extinction”) of the French National Research Funding Agency (ANR). He also has been a former president of the French Society for Systematics (SFS).

The talk will give an overview of what the French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity is, of its governance, of what are its missions at the French, European and international levels, and its tools and resources. The talk will focus on the FRB strategy, actions and projects dealing with scientific question related to tropical areas.

The Centre for the Synthesis and Analysis of Biodiversity (CESAB)

Eric Garnier, Director of CESAB

Eric Garnier is staff scientist (“Directeur de Recherche”) at CNRS, one of the founding members of FRB. He acts as the Director of CESAB for half of his working time. In the context of this function, he is responsible for (1) the scientific direction and animation of the Centre, (2) the steering of the Scientific and Orientation Committee of the Centre, which is in charge of the call for proposals of CESAB, and (3) the scientific representation of the Centre, at the national and international levels.

As a scientist, his work contributes to the field of plant comparative functional ecology. His research, which combines conceptual, experimental and methodological approaches, aims at : (1) identifying the major axes of functional variation in plants ; (2) understanding and predicting plant distribution along major gradients of environmental factors ; (3) understanding the relationships between the functional structure of plant communities and ecosystem properties ; (4) synthesizing and integrating functional diversity data. His work has contributed to the development of conceptual models pertaining to trait-function relationships in plants, and how these can be used to scale-up from the functioning of organisms to that of ecosystems. It has also led to the development of standardized protocols for the measurements of plant traits and to the implementation of large plant trait data bases. He currently contributes to the emergence of ecoinformatics at the national level, in the context of his work as the Director of CESAB in particular.

This talk will give an overview of what CESAB aims at and how it functions. After defining and stressing the importance of scientific synthesis for the advancement of knowledge, four different facets of CESAB will be presented: (1) key aspects of the structure that has been implemented, (2) the main features of the call for research proposals, (3) the themes of the scientific projects that have been funded since the launching of the Centre in 2010, and (4) the ecoinformatics approach developed by the CESAB team to improve the management of biodiversity data.

Investigating large scale patterns to try to understand local processes, the example of reef fishes

Michel Kulbicki, IRD

My major interest is in the ecology and biology of reef fish, analyzing large scale patterns in order to try to understand local processes. I have worked in the South Pacific for over 22 years, sampling reef fish in New Caledonia, Polynesia, Fiji and Tonga. Since 2005 I have been working with theorists in

ecology, modelers and statisticians using reef fish as a model group to tackle major questions in ecology.

Coral reefs represent one of the most complex system in the world, but it is also one of the most threatened, both by global change and by human development. Reef fish are the main resource of coral reefs in many countries and they are important to millions of people. Diversity, both taxonomic and functional, drives many processes which structure reef fish assemblages. Our team conducted large scale analyses of this diversity and its major drivers, showing that there are very important links amongst scales from global to regional to local and vice-versa. We first defined biogeographical regions based on the global distribution of 6300 species. Then we identified major factors acting on the species diversity of these fish on a global scale. Next we showed that evolutionary history was in fact the main driver of today's diversity patterns and probably also responsible for the structure of reef assemblages on a local scale. Despite huge differences in species diversity across regions we showed that the functional structure of these fish assemblages were remarkably stable. However the functional structure of these assemblages is dominated by functional groups with low redundancy and therefore a low insurance against perturbations. Therefore despite a high diversity these systems may remain fragile when facing long lasting perturbations.

Biodiversity in LAC/Colombia: potential and requirements for cooperation

Elizabeth Hodson de Jaramillo, Univ of Javeriana

Professor Emeritus at the School of Sciences of the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá, Colombia); corresponding member of the Academia Colombiana de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales; Honorary Fellow for the Scientific Committee in Fondazione Scuola Medica Salernitana (Italy), Visiting Professor for the Doctorate in Bioethics at Universidad del Museo Social Argentino and at Universidad El Bosque (Colombia).

Ph.D. from the University of Nottingham in the areas of Botany and plant genetic manipulation. International consultant for Biodiversity, Agrobiotechnologies and Biosafety of GMOs. Has edited more than 18 books, 26 scientific chapters in books and more than 50 scientific articles.

The Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region is well known for its immense wealth of natural resources, which are of increasing strategic value for a bio-based world. Some examples of sustainable use of biodiversity in LAC and in Colombia are presented. The results of an overview of natural resources in LAC carried in the ALCUE-KBBE project show the main requirements for the development of specific cooperative activities for the sustainable use of biodiversity. The Latin American and Caribbean Network for Agricultural Biotechnology (REDBIO) is presented as a possible net to facilitate connection between stakeholders from Europe and LAC.

