



The primary aim of ENGOV is to generate new knowledge on how environmental governance is shaped in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The focus will be on new developments and policies that enable or prevent the dual goal of ending poverty and protecting natural resources. Another important aim of ENGOV is to develop a more integrative analytical framework on environmental governance and natural resource use in LAC.

WEBSITE

More information on the project activities, results and publications, and a video introducing the partners can be found at www.engov.eu



EDITORIAL

With this first issue of the bi-annual ENGOV Newsletter we want to inform our readers about the new collaborative research project on 'Environmental Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean: Developing Frameworks for Sustainable and Equitable Natural Resource Use'. ENGOV started in March 2011 and will conclude in February 2015. It is supported by the European Commission within the 7th Framework Programme.

In April 2011, the ENGOV consortium of ten Latin American and European institutions met for the first time in Amsterdam to discuss their cooperation on nine inter-related research themes. The objectives of these research groups are briefly presented in this newsletter; more details can be found at www.engov.eu.

Informing and being informed by all relevant stakeholders is crucial for ENGOV's quality and impact. Policy-makers, academics and students, civil society groups, entrepreneurs and journalists in LAC, Europe and beyond: we hope you will all become involved in ENGOV.



01. The kick-off conference was attended by Don Sawyer and Thomas Ludewigs (CDS), Joan Martinez-Alier and Mariana Walter (ICTA), Benedicte Bull and Mariel Aguilar-Støen (SUM), Alberto Cimadamore (CLACSO), Cristian Parker (IDEA), Pablo Andrade (UASB-SQ), Héctor Sejenovich (IIGG), Mina Kleiche (IRD), David Barkin (UAM-Xoc.), Michiel Baud, Fábio de Castro, Leontien Cremers and Barbara Hogenboom (CEDLA).

02. Lecture by Prof. Joan Martinez-Alier (ICTA-UAB) at the University of Amsterdam.

MEETINGS

ENGOV organizes two meetings per year. The kick-off meeting took place from 7 to 9 April 2011 in Amsterdam. The public event of this meeting was a lecture by Joan Martinez-Alier on the Chevron Texaco Court case in Ecuador, which attracted around 80 people.

Upcoming ENGOV meetings (provisional dates):

- 15-18 November 2011 in Buenos Aires
- 28-31 May 2012 in Brasilia and 1 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro



INSTITUTIONS IN ENGGOV CONSORTIUM

CEDLA-UvA: Centre for Latin American Study and Documentation - Universiteit van Amsterdam, The Netherlands (Project Coordination)

CLACSO: Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales, Argentina (Project Dissemination)

ICTA-UAB: Institut de Ciència y Tecnología Ambientals - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

IRD: Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, France

SUM-UiO: Centre for Development and the Environment - Universitetet i Oslo, Norway

CDS-UnB: Centro de Desenvolvimento Sustentável - Universidade de Brasília, Brazil

UAM-Xoc.: Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana - Xochimilco, Mexico

IDEA-USACH: Instituto de Estudios Avanzados - Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Chile

IIGG: Instituto de Investigaciones Gino Germani, Argentina

UASB-SQ: Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar - Sede Quito, Ecuador

PRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH GROUPS

HISTORICISING UNEQUAL RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

This group examines the relationship between the new leftist governments in Bolivia and Ecuador and environmental governance in light of the historical construction of the states over which they preside. Our research will explore the following hypothesis: given the historical trajectory that both these states and their societies have made, it is likely that the new initiatives of environmental governance will suffer from similar historical problems of segmentation, limited policy coordination and a reliance on the protection of the political leadership. How to prevent such "weak" forms of governance and create more inclusive and sustainable models is what we aim to clarify. – Coordinated by UASB-SQ

SHIFTING ELITES AND INSTITUTIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

This research group deals with the complex relationship between elites and environmental governance in Latin America. It aims to understand the nature of the shift of political elites observed over the last 10 years and whether it has engendered changes in environmental policy. This will be of high value locally as well as internationally for guiding policy and political action, particularly since we seek to link environmental policy to key productive sectors in which economic elites are embedded. In Amsterdam we discussed important conceptual issues and clarified how the planned case studies in El Salvador, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina and Brazil may be compared. – Coordinated by SUM-UiO

STRATEGIC ACTORS AND RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION

This group deals with strategic actors and their knowledge background for decision-making on strategic issues concerning environmental governance in LAC. It aims to understand forms of collective representation on energy and water consumption and the role of strategic actors in the institutional management of energy and water resources. By highlighting the relevance of environmental conscience and practices, including social responsibility and environmental justice issues, we aim to provide valuable keys to public and educational policies that encourage responsible consumption patterns. The Amsterdam meeting provided the main orientations to conduct the case studies in Chile, Argentine and Ecuador. – Coordinated by IDEA-USACH

BUILDING AND EXCHANGING KNOWLEDGES ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The researchers in this group propose a socio-historical and anthropological analysis of different knowledges regarding natural resources and the environment, especially scientific knowledge and indigenous knowledge. With this it can provide recommendations for more equitable and sustainable governability. In Amsterdam we discussed how several case studies will allow us to understand the transformation of knowledges from different actors. This group will produce a meta-review of the scientific production since the 1970s; a macro analysis of knowledge construction by different institutions and actors that gives an insight into the political, economic, social and cultural (re-)configuration of knowledges; and a micro-analysis of



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scientific communities, entrepreneurs and traditional communities on their perceptions and uses of natural resources. – Coordinated by IRD

ANALYSING POVERTY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The objective of this research group is to relate poverty and sustainable development as part of the topic of environmental governance in LAC. It analyses the dominant tendencies of searching for short-term gain and externalizing major natural and social costs, which result in environmental degradation and social poverty. It studies important social movements and state policies that promote a development that is solidary with nature and the people. We propose to develop mechanisms to take into account the value of nature in territorial environmental planning. The meeting in Amsterdam helped to explore and describe the many themes involved in WP6 and the links with the other WPs. – Coordinated by IIGG

RESOURCE EXTRACTION CONFLICTS COMPARED

This group conducts research on the relationship between growth in the metabolism of the economy and environmental conflicts in Latin America. Studies will be conducted at the regional level and in some countries such as in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Ecuador. The researchers analyse current trends in the indicators of social metabolism (material and energy flows, the HANPP, "virtual water"). Moreover, resource extraction conflicts (e.g. minerals, wood, soy) caused by increased metabolic flows will be researched and mapped. At the Amsterdam kick off meeting the objectives and the research framework were clarified as well as two initial case studies to be developed this year in Argentina and Ecuador. – Coordinated by ICTA-UAB

ASSESSING LOCAL SOLUTIONS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

This research group proposes engaging in research jointly with members of communities and organizations directly involved in implementing alternative social and political projects to promote "sustainable" productive and environment management practices. We identify examples that are consciously constructing non-capitalist processes of production that also contribute to strengthen institutions for self-governance and environmental balance, while increasing their ability to supply basic needs and diversifying their productive base. In Amsterdam we discussed how the research can explore the philosophic and material bases for community decisions. An important part of the collaborative research involves evaluating the prospects for alternative projects and identifying the obstacles that participants in alternative projects face. – Coordinated by UAM-Xoc





MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

This group tackles the rapidly growing field of mitigation and adaptation to climate change in LAC. It is intended to further the current knowledge on land use and agriculture in the context of climate change, including sustainable landscapes, family farming and traditional communities. It also aims to compare a range of mitigation initiatives among different biomes in LAC, including the Amazon, Cerrado savannah and Mesoamerica, and to evaluate vulnerabilities and resilience to environmental impacts. At the meeting in Amsterdam we talked about strategies to link this group's research priorities to those of the other research groups and to ENGGOV's conceptual framework. – Coordinated by CDS-UnB

CROSSING BOUNDARIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

This last theme is the research arena where our theoretical ambition of an integrative analytical framework will be developed. The comprehensive knowledge of the complexities of environmental governance in LAC fostered by the empirical findings of each research group will be used to address the linkages across institutional, ecological, social, cultural, and knowledge boundaries in the region. Through a multi-scale perspective, environmental governance will be analyzed as a dynamic process of "policy in the making" by taking into account formal and informal social interactions, where multiple goals are negotiated under different knowledge sources. The focus on "linkages" will enhance the development of innovative academic and policy recommendations on environmental governance in LAC countries and possibly other regions. – Coordinated by CEDLA-UvA.