



# CoCiBio

Programa de cooperación para la investigación orientada a la aplicación sobre la biodiversidad y cambio climático

## SYSTEMATIZATION REPORT DRAFT



### German-Ecuadorian Research Cooperation Program on Biodiversity and Climate Change – CoCiBio

Virtual Meeting – WebEx, 27-28 October 2020

Prepared by Carlos Fierro, Facilitator (4 November 2020)



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## List of Abbreviations used in the document:

- CoCiBio:** German-Ecuadorian Research Co-operation Program on Biodiversity and Climate Change
- DAAD:** German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst)
- GIZ:** German Cooperation Agency (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
- INABIO:** National Institute of Biodiversity of Ecuador
- MAAE:** Ministry of Environment and Water of Ecuador
- RedBio:** Ecuadorian Network on Biodiversity
- SENESCYT:** Ecuadorian Secretary on Science and Technology



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## 1. MIDTERM WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

### 1.1. Background

The German-Ecuadorian Research Co-operation Program on Biodiversity and Climate Change – CoCiBio- carried out a KickOff event on 18-19 November 2019. By October 2020 a Midterm workshop was planned to be conducted in Ecuador, but, due to the COVID-19 pandemic that imposed world's travel and meeting restrictions during the year 2020, a “virtual” meeting was decided instead.

The three selected projects have completed, with pandemic limitations, its first year of implementation, with funds kindly provided by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)). The DAAD organized the current workshop in coordination with the other funding agencies and in collaboration with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment (MAE), and the National Biodiversity Institute (INABIO). The MICHEL event agency was responsible for the virtual logistics for this event.

This report summarizes the development and results of the Midterm Workshop.

### 1.2. Objective

The purpose of the CoCiBio Midterm event is to evaluate the advancement and achievements of the three projects, including the special projects for “Knowledge Transfer”, especially in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to analyze what modifications and adaptation to the work plan are necessary to fulfill the projects' outcomes and outputs.

### 1.3. Methodology of the Event

The Midterm workshop was divided into two parts: on Day 1 the three projects reported their advancements of the first year and reviewed the impacts they had from the COVID-19 pandemic, and discussed internally the adjustments they had to do during the current year and the necessary adaptation of the plans.

On Day 2, the projects continued discussing their adaptation plans, and presented its results, and also presented their ideas on the “Knowledge Transfer” special project and discussed with the parties (DAAD, GIZ, INABIO, and MAAE) about the progress, needs and opportunities for the application of scientific results (through private and public sector actors).

The logistics were arranged in collaboration with MICHEL event agency. The workshop was conducted using Cisco's *WebEx Teams and WebEx Meetings*™ software. The workshop sessions were recorded with the consent of the participants.



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## 1.4. Participants

A total 38 university and institutional experts participated in the event (Annex). The total number of participants in the event was 42 including the representatives of collaborating agencies, logistics and the facilitator.

## 1.5. Agenda

The Agenda of the event (full agenda as Annex) is summarized as:

Monday, October 26, 2020

- Technical tests with organizing team and involved institutions.

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

- Login and welcome
- Opening of the midterm event
- Current state of the pandemic in Germany and Ecuador: Implications for the projects
- Halfway through the implementation of CoCiBio
- Answers to pending questions and discussion
- Parallel breakout sessions – Part 1: Exchange within project groups
- Summary of day one

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

- Parallel breakout sessions – Part 2: Exchange within project groups
- Short presentation of the outcome of the internal discussions
- Presentation of the special project “Knowledge Transfer” and plenary discussion on its advancements.
- Consecutive carousel sessions between projects and executing institutions
- Closing remarks



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## 2. MIDTERM WORKSHOP DEVELOPMENT AND RESULTS

DAY 1: Tuesday, 27 October 2020

### 2.1. Log in and opening remarks

After the invited participants logged in, logistic indications for the virtual meeting were given both by MICHEL's personnel and the Facilitator.

### 2.2 Opening of Midterm event, welcome addresses and presentation of participants:

The following initial addresses were given:

#### **Jaime Ortiz**

Undersecretary of Water

Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment and Water (MAAE)

The Vice-minister welcomes all the participants of CoCiBio. Recalls the CoCiBio project objectives and the importance of the project for the conservation and management of Biodiversity in Ecuador, recognizing the participation of different institutions from Ecuador and Germany.

#### **Diego Inclán**

National Biodiversity Institute (INABIO)

Starts mentioning that it is nice to meet project participants again through this digital media. It will be crucial the adaptation all can do to the project plans. Gives the best wishes for a successful meeting during these two days. Emphasizes that INABIO is here to help the different projects in developing updated plans in order to complete the projects in a successful way and welcomes all again.

#### **Karin von Löbenstein**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

On behalf of GIZ, welcomes all the participants and representatives of the cooperation institutions both from Ecuador and Germany participating in the workshop. Recalls the three projects that are in execution. Emphasizes the role of INABIO and MAAE and the DAAD as workshop organizers. Remembers the role of GIZ and BMZ and the activities of both institutions in Ecuador and the support given for many projects on sustainable development, social advancement, and the environment in Ecuador. Highlights the goals of CoCiBio and the link to the conservation of biodiversity in Ecuador. States the



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difficulties the projects are facing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and recognizes the delays and problems that have emerged for this particular situation. Wishes two days of a successful workshop.

## **Ilona Daun**

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

On behalf of DAAD welcomes all the participants and regrets that this workshop has to be done in a virtual format. Recalls the role of the MAAE and the presence of the undersecretary of MAAE. This workshop will be important to deal with all the problems presented in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic for the execution of the projects. Wishes everybody a productive workshop.

## 2.3 Presentations

### **Current state of the pandemic in Germany and Ecuador**

#### **Anja Munzig**

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

and

#### **Jörg Zeilinger**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Anja and Jörg present the current data of the COVID-19 pandemic both in Ecuador and Germany, and the implications of this special circumstance to the development of activities in general in the two countries, and some view about its perspectives.

## 2.4 Halfway through the implementation of CoCiBio: Presentation of the three Projects

The three projects under execution gave a presentation on the advancements since the beginning of the project by the end of 2019 and during the year 2020, emphasizing what and what not could be achieved in the context of the pandemic. (Full presentations in Annexes)



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## 2.4.1 BIO-GEEC: Establishing barcoding pipelines for biological systems of public and economic relevance Dr. Dietmar Quandt

**BIO-GEEC: GERMAN-ECUADORIAN BIODIVERSITY CONSORTIUM**  
Establishing barcoding pipelines for biological systems of public and economic relevance (Stage 1)

German-Ecuadorian Research Cooperation Program on Biodiversity and Climate Change – CoCiBio  
Virtual Meeting, 27-28 October 2020

cooperación alemana DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

giz Implementada por

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service

INABIO Instituto Nacional De Biodiversidad

Dr. Quandt mentions the institutions and universities participating in the project and the people in charge in each one, and the objectives and activities executed so far.

It was possible to conduct some of the activities, as the kick-off meeting in Tena in 2019 the beginning of the Summer School in Tena in March 2020, and the signature of some administrative contracts between the institutions. Some laboratory and field work was possible even during the critical months of the pandemic; however the lack of data and permits to export samples and specimens and the administrative delays at various levels are making it impossible to export and sequence the samples. He stresses that, for instance, the Framework Contract is still pending.



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## 2.4.2 ECU-MAES: National Ecosystem Services Assessment and Mapping

Dr. Janina Kleemann

The slide features a central photograph of a lush, green mountain landscape under a cloudy sky. Above the photo, the title 'Presentation of schedule and work plan of Ecu-MAES' is displayed. The slide is framed by a green header and footer. The header contains logos for IKIAM, ECUMAES, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, the German-Ecuadorian Research Cooperation Program, and CoCiBio. The footer includes logos for 'cooperación alemana', 'giz', 'DAAD', 'CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR, CIENCIA, TECNOLOGÍA E INNOVACIÓN', and 'INABIO'. The text 'Mid-term Meeting 28 October 2020' is located in the bottom right corner.

**Presentation of schedule and work plan of Ecu-MAES**

*Project core team:*  
Prof. Dr. Christine Fürst, Dr. Janina Kleemann, and Ms. Hongmi Koo, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU)  
Prof. Dr. Pablo Cuenca, and Dr. Jin Noh, Universidad Regional Amazónica Ikiam

cooperación alemana  
giz  
DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service  
CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR, CIENCIA, TECNOLOGÍA E INNOVACIÓN  
INABIO Instituto Nacional De Biodiversidad  
Mid-term Meeting  
28 October 2020

Dr. Kleemann, recall the outcomes and outputs of the project. Some of the activities were possible as the field visit to representative ecosystems, up to March 2020 (when the travel restrictions began globally) and some academic activities and analysis had continued, as well as virtual scientific meetings conducted in 2020. She presents the advances and some maps showing the scenarios on ecosystem biodiversity. However, many field activities, thesis works, and scientific meetings had to be canceled. There are also challenges with some administrative processes that have been delayed due to the pandemic. Many activities have been postponed to the year 2021 if the conditions for international travel will allow them. An important change in the remaining funds of the project to be spent has to be resolved if travel is not allowed.



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## 2.4.3 Restoration of Reef Ecosystems and sustainable fishing practices off the coast of Esmeraldas, Ecuador

Dr. Judith Denkinger

German-Ecuadorian Research Cooperation Program on Biodiversity and Climate Change – CoCiBio  
Virtual Meeting, 27-28 October 2020

# Ghost fishing Esmeraldas, Ecuador

Restoration of Reef Ecosystems and sustainable fishing practices off the coast of Esmeraldas, Ecuador

ZMT / USFQ

Dr. Judith Denkinger (USFQ), Prof. Dr. Matthias Wolff (ZMT Bremen), Javier Oña, Giovana Alcome, Dr. Pilar Herrón  
Dr. Gustavo Castellanos-Celindo, Eduardo Robledo

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SECRETARÍA DE EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR, CIENCIA, TECNOLOGÍA E INNOVACIÓN INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE BIODIVERSIDAD

Dr. Denkinger recalls the objectives and components of the project. The fieldwork of the project was impossible until August 2020. Intense fieldwork began in September 2020 and the crew spent a lot of time in the sea during October. Literature review and some field data collection on artisanal fishing and subsequent analysis was possible, as well as some of the work with students related to life and virtual polls, and some work on nets recycling/reuse, as well as the design of some educational pilots. The educational campaign was impossible to be conducted in person since the social distance regulations, so it has become a virtual campaign on the internet. Pilar Herrón complemented the presentation describing the fieldwork that has been done by her team and presented preliminary data analysis.



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## 2.5 Answers to pending questions and discussion

After the presentations of the three projects, a plenary session of questions and answers was opened. The results are in the following table.

Implementation of CoCiBio Facing the COVID-19 pandemic	
QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
What are the perspectives of limitations to field work and research permits to be resolved?	There are current restrictions in Ecuador due to COVID regarding the number of participants and so; it is possible that some field work could be done; commercial flights are back from Ecuador to Germany with restrictions. Negative PCR is required, but could change.
When is the official confirmation for contract extension?	Still pending. Will let you know when ready, probably next week or so.
How to send/receive documents and stuff from Ecuador/Germany?	Transport as personal stuff is possible but you have to check on custom restrictions (customs regulations in web page from Ecuador). It is usually allowed some articles as personal belongings for your work, but customs officers could deny some articles. In courier and Cargo flights customs are automatically involved, so have to check restrictions and costs. Customs could be covered by project budget but have to be included in the budget.
Could conferences be postponed to next year? (2021)	DAAD: yes, you can, but only until June 2021.
How long does the DNA analysis take? Is it possible to have this information before finish the project?	Sequencing is the issue. Anytime, but the material is needed. It could take 1-2 weeks, depending on the conditions of the material. Time is crucial.
Is there something DAAD can do to allow for some exceptions to the current German government's restrictions, so that staff from German Universities are able to travel to Ecuador to conduct fieldwork?	DAAD can do nothing regarding government travel restrictions. DAAD could check if any costs could be covered in case they arise from the restrictions i.e. quarantine time. Responsibility relies on the partner institution. National organizations are planning some trips to the field i.e. INABIO.
Are export permits another challenge, how could it be resolved?	Once the Framework Contract is in place the export permits could be resolved, with probably some limitations regarding the kind or material, but shouldn't be a problem.



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How to improve communications between institutions i.e. INABIO-MAAE and the other implementing institutions and projects?	One idea is that INABIO join some Whastapp chats and other tools the projects are using to communicate among themselves. There will be more time in the workshop to discuss coordination procedures.
Can the MAAE comment on the Framework Contract?	MAAE is ready to help if the projects contact them.
Frame work contract problems, not advancing? SUIA changes in the platform. Administrative problems.	MAAE: will put in direct contact with the people in charge of the problematic contracts (Marianela).
Lab restrictions to work.	SENECYT: some universities are allowed to do field work but not going to the labs. This could imply problems in processing the material. INABIO offers their facilities for some analysis.
Can the project activities be extended	It is not a decision from GIZ but from the BMZ. If the case is so the projects should make a case on that and submit it to the DAAD-GIZ, so they can ask the BMZ to resolve on this issue.
Comment from MAAE	It is a request more than a question, Nowadays in Biodiversity Direction a specific unit for the management of ecosystems has been generated, we ask colleagues of the ECUMAES project to please consider us in the following activities of the project because this would definitely help us a lot for the management of ecosystem services based on scientific information.

At the end of the session GIZ made clear to the participants that in order to GIZ try to negotiate a project extension for the projects, each project will have to submit a document explaining the delay experienced due to the pandemic and the need for a time extension in order to complete the project's activities.

## 2.6 Parallel breakout sessions – Part 1. Exchange within project groups

The group's work began with the participants being divided into their respective projects to discuss the adaptation needed to the project's plans based on the input gathered from previous sessions. The participants had the opportunity to talk about each project and resolve pending issues in order to adapt the project execution for the second year in the context of the pandemic. The implementing institutions remained in a fourth group.

There is not a summary of these internal discussions during day 1, since the discussion continued on the second day.



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## 2.7 Summary of day one

After the group work, a brief recall of the activities of day 1 was given by the facilitator, plus a recall of the second-day agenda. The key points of the day were highlighted:

- Participants acknowledge the benefit of having this Midterm meeting despite the virtual format.
- All projects stated the difficulties that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to modify its plans, and extend the time of the projects, because if they have no more time there is the possibility that some projects objectives could not be achieved.

After a question from Mathias Wolff and a comment from Dietmar Quandt concerning if the projects will have to think on a project extension or on a Phase II of the project, GIZ made the announcement that BMZ has disclosed that there will definitely not be a Phase II of CoCiBio project, so the projects will need to ask for an extension of time at the end of this phase in order to complete the outputs and outcomes of the projects.

This was discussed in more detail during Day 2.



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DAY 2: Wednesday, 28 October 2020

After login of participants and a brief summary of day 1 and a review of the agenda, the workshop continued with the work of groups that began the previous day.

## 2.8 Parallel breakout sessions – Part 2. Exchange within project groups.

Groups worked divided by their respective projects as the first day.

Ilona Daun and Anja Munzig from DAAD joined the groups in order to explain the need for the projects to ask for an extension of the projects, since no Phase II will exist for the CoCiBio project.

### Short presentation of the outcome of the internal discussions

A summary of the group discussions was presented in this session. The main points raised by the projects were:

#### 2.8.1 BIO-GEEC: Establishing barcoding pipelines for biological systems of public and economic relevance

Dr. Danilo Harms and Claudia Segovia

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many activities were delayed and continue to be delayed.
- Sequencing need the necessary permits for the export of the samples.
- The exhibition for INABIO is very important (knowledge transfer project) but it will need more time.
- The capacity building developed by the project also will need more time.
- Regarding how much time is needed the project calculates that an extension of six months is needed.

#### 2.8.2 ECU-MAES: National Ecosystem Services Assessment and Mapping

Dr. Janina Kleemann

- To finalize the assessment, scenario modeling, and conduct a “reality check“ with experts in Nov. 2020 and stakeholders in Feb. 2021 (online?)
- To conduct the summer school in May 2021 (online?)
- To participate in conferences in 2021 (online?)
- To further develop the project proposals, publications, bachelor theses until June 2021
- Installation of the knowledge transfer in May 2021?
- More data collection and processing are needed.
- More time will be needed for the project, at least a six months extension of the project.



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## 2.8.3 Restoration of Reef Ecosystems and sustainable fishing practices off the coast of Esmeraldas, Ecuador

Dr. Mathis Wolff. Dr. Judith Denkinger

- Sampling will need to be done by August 2021
- Web page and the platform is under construction and will need more time to complete.
- Enhanced collaboration with local universities and students needed to compensate for the impossibility of Fisheries Expert to travel.
- An annual sampling has to be completed.
- An expected extension until the end of 2021 is anticipated to finish the project goals.

### After the group presentations a brief space of questions and answers was opened:

**Ilona Daun** | An extension of the project seems the need for all the projects, however, it is not DAAD decision, but BMZ's one and probably GIZ could add something about that.

**Karin von Loebenstein** | BMZ has agreed to extend the CoCiBio project until December of 2021, however this does not mean that the individual projects can end at the end of 2021, because administrative procedures to close the project that will take at least 6-8 weeks to close the procedures. And DAAD will also need time to finish the procedures with the Universities. So probably the last three months will be used for administrative procedures, leaving only three months for an extension of the individual projects.

**Ilona Daun** | Taking it into account probably the project extensions will only last until only two more months. Will that be enough time?

**Danilo Harms:** Certainly not enough; 6 months will be minimum.

**Judith Denkinger** | in order to complete the annual cycle more months will be needed.

**Karin von Löbenstein** | Unfortunately rules and regulations from BMZ have to be enforced and it will be much difficult to negotiate an extension since the four years maximum duration of a project.

**Claudia Segovia** | Stresses that working with living organisms in the field needs to complete some cycles and part of the work could be just lost if a sufficient extension is not negotiated.

**Ilona Daun** | In these special circumstances of COVID-19 it will try to dialogue with the BMZ to know if it will be the possibility to negotiate an extension.



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**Karin von Löbenstein** | GIZ will consult on the possibility of an extension, but for sure there will be no more money.

**Pilar Herrón** | Stress the importance of complete an annual cycle in order to fulfill their project's objectives.

**Danilo Harms** | Suggests that the projects prepare a Table presenting what goals can be achieved and not achieved in the original time of the project, and for the ones that cannot be achieved, how much extra time they will need to complete them, to better help DAAD/GIZ have elements to negotiate.

**Mathias Wolff** | suggest that is necessary for the projects to anticipate how the money that has not been spent due to the pandemic will be used or re-channeled to the extension of the programs or be used in case of a non-extension scenario.

## 2.9 Presentation of the special project “Knowledge Transfer”

The three projects presented the advances on the Special Project “Knowledge Transfer” and the limitations they are now facing due to the pandemic.

### 2.9.1 BIO-GEEC: Creating a virtual BIO-GEEC interactive 3D experience for the public. Claudia Segovia

The idea of the project is to provide a national tool that promotes ecosystem research as well as applications in sustainable farming and agriculture, consumer protection, forensics, customs, human health, and biodiversity monitoring.

This will be achieved by a virtual interactive 3D experience in which visitors (provided the appropriate technical setup in an exhibition) or users (when downloading a corresponding app on their personal devices) learn about the biodiversity and ecology of the paramo as well as the palms and spiders and their impact on the society and stakeholders as one of the important outcomes of BIO-GEEC.

In the Paramo, it will be focused on the diversity of plants (including the seed bank), spiders, the microbial and fungal soil community. While in the lowlands it will focus on palm species, floral visitors, pollinators and spiders.

In Ecuador, there are not many experiences with these models, and is expensive so the project is working to achieve it in collaboration with partners. It will useful to have a Coordinator for this specific project.





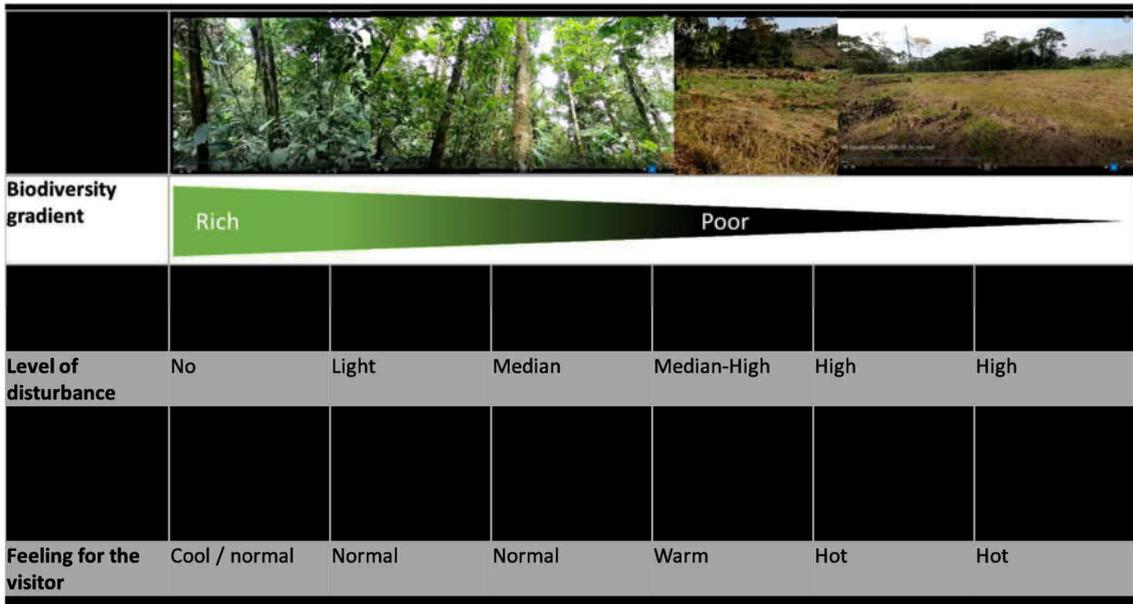
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### 2.9.2 ECU-MAES: A 360°-visualization to experience the consequences of biodiversity loss

Dr. Janina Kleemann

The aim of the project is to show the unique and rich biodiversity of Ecuador to people living in Ecuadorian cities (also to visitors/tourists) and to create awareness about the consequences of biodiversity loss.

The project is focused in the production of a 360 degrees 3D visualization of the ecosystems both forested and degraded, in which the public can “see and hear” the characteristics of a biodiverse tropical forest in an immersive experience by means of virtual reality. The participant will begin in a kind of animated trip in the tropical forest and travel through a gradient of ecosystems, and at the end it finishes in a disturbed ecosystem to notice the differences. During the video the participants will be educated on the characteristics of the biodiverse ecosystems and the causes of biodiversity loss and impacts and consequences of the biodiversity loss.





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### 2.9.3 Restoration of Reef Ecosystems and sustainable fishing practices off the coast of Esmeraldas, Ecuador

Dr. Judith Denking

The project is aimed to prepare an interactive web site that stresses the importance of the ocean conservation and the environmental impacts of the ghost fishing nets on the reef ecosystem. The web page will have a series of videos and interactive buttons to demonstrate the effects of ghost nets and educational message that explains the causes of this to happen, the current situation, the impacts, and the conservation messages.

A campaign “From Ocean to Home” as part of the project has developed some educational material and videos also aimed as an educational tool for schoolchildren. A sketch of the video was presented.



After the presentations the three projects expressed that time extension is crucial to succeeding in the completion of the Knowledge Transfer projects, since data is still needed and a lot of work to prepare the educational products and equipment to be sent to Ecuador.

**Jörg Zeilinger** points out that the idea of INABIO is that the exhibition constitutes not only an exhibition in INABIO but a kind of mobile presentation that INABIO has experience in, and INABIO human resources and some budget will be involved in that. Some extra coordination will be needed with the projects to achieve that.



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An idea presented by the participants was to hire an extra person to coordinate the Knowledge Transfer with INABIO. However, it is difficult to find a mechanism to create a “pot” among the projects for such contracts. So, the decision was that every project could name a person with the current funding to coordinate the KT activities among the projects and the INABIO has already a person in charge of the exhibition that can act as a focal point to coordinate the exhibition issues with the projects.

**Ilona Daun** previously proposed that a Whatsapp group could be formed between the projects and executing agencies and in order to improve the inter coordination with focal points from each project and the agencies.

## 2.10 Consecutive carousel sessions of the projects with the implementing institutions.

The groups corresponding to each project meet in turns with the implementing agencies. The groups also had the opportunity to use this time to finish conversations on their own projects.

At the groups, the implementing agencies discussed with each project the ways to adapt the projects considering the delays incurred due to the pandemic. There are no summaries of these group meetings since they were working in different “rooms” into the system.

After the carousel groups, a plenary session with final remarks on the next steps of the projects was held:

### **Ilona Daun**

- Remembers the participants to name the Whatsapp groups representatives
- Projects to send a resume of the plan of the projects to DAAD-GIZ giving elements to try to negotiate an extension of the project describing the problems and extra time needed.
- Another virtual meeting with each project could then be held in order to coordinate further actions.

### **Karin von Löbenstein**

- GIZ is working on the preparation of a new project with aspects of biodiversity, and probably some elements of the current projects could be continuing, however, it is not a continuation of the CoCiBio but a different project.

### **Andres Factos**

- Remarks the importance of an extension of the projects GIZ could negotiate with BMZ for a good completion of the CoCiBio project in general.



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## 2.11 Workshop closure and Farewell

Final farewell words were given by implementing institutions:

### **Diego Inclán**

National Biodiversity Institute (INABIO)

Thanks everybody for the work during the workshop. Emphasizes the importance of communication among groups and institutions. Offers the help of INABIO for further consultations with the projects. Wishes good luck for the projects in this pandemic context, and say goodbye to all.

### **Karin von Löbenstein**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Remarks the difficult times everybody is living now, and the difficulties all the projects with GIZ had passed and the need to adapt. Thanks for participation and constructive discussions. Wish that the projects could finish in the best way.

### **Ilona Daun**

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Remembers that this meeting was originally planned to be in person in Quito, but fortunately everything went without problems in a virtual format thanks to the help of MICHEL (Rebekka and Xhejsi) for running the technical part. It will be wonderful if an extension of the projects could be achieved in order to fulfill the objectives of the projects. GIZ and DAAD will try to negotiate this extension. All the participants will keep in touch. Says goodbye and thanks to everybody

### **Andrés Factos**

Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment (MAE)

Thanks everybody on behalf of MAE especially for the results achieved so far within the projects. MAE offers to help and support all the projects. Thanks everybody and wishes good health.

The Facilitator gave some closing remarks and thanks everybody, projects participants, implementing institutions and support agencies for a successful meeting

**Rebecka Michel and Xhejsi Farozi** from the agency MICHEL International Relations & Services gave some final words wishing good luck and work to all the projects and people involved and remarking the successful event and remarking that this meeting had to be in virtual format due to the circumstances, but wishing the next opportunity will be in person.



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A “group meeting” (screenshot) was taken of all the participants.



### 3. WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS AND REMARKS

Concerning the execution of the workshop, and taking into account the pandemic context and the virtual format, the Midterm Workshop could be considered a success.

All the presentations were given without technical difficulties and the projects had the opportunity to discuss openly and effectively with their respective groups.

Probably one of the most important issues that keep pending is if a project extension will be approved by BMZ or not, since that will constrain or enable the achievement of the project's goals.

The system management for the virtual meeting was satisfactory and fortunately all the participants had good connections and were able to stay connected all the meeting.

Considering the above, the CoCiBio Midterm Event fulfilled its purposes and objectives.

END OF REPORT