



I Encontro Internacional da Rede Latino Americana e Caribenha de Pesquisa e Inovação em Ambientes de Montanha
1er Encuentro Internacional de la Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Investigación e Innovación en Ambientes de Montaña
First International Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Research and Innovation in Mountain Environments

11 a 13 de maio de 2021 11 al 13 de mayo de 2021 11th to 13th of May 2021

The 1st International Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Research and Innovation in Mountain Environments (LACMONT 2021), held from May 11-13, 2021, following an online mode and open to general participation, presents this preliminary document as a contribution to launch the Network structuring process, including the definition of its identity, as well as proposals for research, events, projects and topics that will enable the development of institutional synergies for collective work. This proposal was prepared during the event and shared with the participants, on May 13th, and incorporates contributions from lectures, round tables, participation in the chat and inputs collected by the questionnaire made available from May 11-12.

The establishment of the Latin American and Caribbean Network for Research and Innovation in Mountain Environments-LACMONT was initially discussed during Mountains 2018, an event held in Nova Friburgo, a municipality in the mountainous region of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which was attended by researchers from Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia and Argentina and other countries, as well as a representative of the Secretariat of the Alliance for the Mountains. In search of advancing the discussion related to challenges and knowledge gathering about Mountain Environments, in December 2019, the Brazilian Forum for Sustainable Development of Mountain Environments was held, in online format and organized by the Center for Research and Training of Farmers (NPTA), an Embrapa initiative, located in Nova Friburgo, RJ.

LACMONT 2021 thus comes as a renewed effort to consolidate the network for research and innovation in mountain regions, in the Latin American and Caribbean context. The meeting, held in online format, was attended by approximately 325 people from 12 countries.

We thank all participants for attendance and for collaborations.

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1. Identity: Mission, Vision, Values, Basic Principles

Mission

Promote and strengthen sustainability in mountain environments, based on research, projects and innovative experiences that contribute to social well-being, culture appreciation, income generation, knowledge enhancement, conservation and restoration of ecosystems and continuous integration with other related networks.

Vision 2030

The construction of LACMONT's vision will be part of the initial work of the Network, taking as a milestone the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in addition to the guidelines for interactive activities between CT&I institutions, education (universities and other schools), governments, companies and civil society, aiming at promoting sustainability and quality of life in mountain environments, integrating society's various sectors and expertise.

Values

Interdisciplinarity/Transdisciplinarity

Respect for Diversity

Knowledge and Innovation

Cooperation and Transparency

Basic Principles

Promotion of Environmental Awareness and Social Responsibility in its daily operation.

Openness for dialogue in the organization and implementation of actions within the scope of the Network.

Commitment to cultural aspects of countries, groups and institutions.

Appreciation of the various definitions, visions and interpretations of mountains.

Creative, supportive and innovative spirit within its activities

Promote permanent reflection on gender aspects in the management and conservation of mountains in the actions of the LACMONT network.

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2. On events, activities, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary projects: expertise, experiences, research, knowledge sharing

The plan is to make use of various formats, such as organization of Thematic Meetings, Seminars, Lectures, Awards.

As a result of the inputs gathered by the questionnaire applied during the event, a list of topics to be addressed was produced (see **Annex 1** of this document).

3. On Partnerships - supporters and funders:

With the support of LACMONT's general coordination and key collaborators, the Network will give priority to:

- Strengthen and expand ties with its earlier partners;
- Prospect funding sources for incentive programs and promote new partnerships;
- Identify sponsors that support themes related to mountain environments, such as those mentioned during the event: Belmont Forum, Satoyama Initiative, among others;
- Integrate LACMONT's activities within the framework of the Mountain Partnership, joining this United Nations initiative to benefit/promote exchanges among related research organizations from other regions of the world;
- Connect LACMONT's activities with the Connected Cooperation Cluster A, CONDESAN and MRI, agencies which were created and established in the region to support, such initiatives, exchanges and collaboration in research.

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4. Suggestion for Structure and Steps for governance:

Based on the description of the LACMONT Network Mission and on the integrated and organic vision of governance, grounded on partnership and dialogue presented in lectures and experience reports, we propose that the organizational structure of the network encompasses: General Coordination and Vice Coordination, General Secretariat, Co-laboratories for Knowledge Exchange, Innovation and Research. Prior to the appointment of members of the steering committee, the International Committee of LACMONT 2021 will perform such function, under the chairmanship of Renato Linhares de Assis.

Annex 2, at the end of this document, presents the inputs collected from the participants of the event, comprising various activities for LACMONT, all of which will be considered, matured and planned in the next steps of the network.

Thanking everyone for their participation in the preparation of this preliminary document and restating our commitment to the advances of the LACMONT network,

We sign this document,

The participants

Nova Friburgo, 13 May 2021.

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Annex 1

Inputs regarding Events, Activities, Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Projects: expertise, experiences, research and knowledge sharing, collected during the 1st Meeting.

- Events connecting Community Health and Natural Environments; strengthening the concept of Environmental Health.
- Meetings focusing on themes related to mountain environments.
- Events to promote Network integration to foster exchange of experiences of institutions and researchers.
- Creation of internal thematic groups/axes to facilitate dissemination and fund raising, such as, Mountains and tourism; Mountains and agriculture: Mountains and mapping; Mountains and biodiversity; Mountains and geodiversity.
- Organization and creation of Courses and Workshops focusing on the Sustainability of Traditional Communities.
- Events that promote gender equality.
- Research and study of mountain flora and fauna.
- Awards to stimulate research that use the methodology of community participation, integrating knowledge and practice related to lives of mountain dwellers.
- Create school projects to stimulate awareness of locals of mountain environments, their realities, needs and cultures.
- Projects to foster new leaders and professionals with a transdisciplinary vision of the needs of people and their territories.
- Creation of a specific forum to discuss the destruction of mountains in Latin America, especially by large enterprises, such as mining and wind farms.

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Annex 2

List of the Main Actions Suggested and Collected at the Meeting for Governance Structuring

- General Coordination and Deputy Coordination

- Seek representation and receive recommendation of institutions and researchers from all countries working on the theme of mountain environment in Latin America and the Caribbean
 - Promote interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity in the proposed projects.
 - Define the criteria to join the network.
 - Define the language policy.
 - Support fundraising activities, in the search for partnerships for intermediation and identification of financial resources to support the network's activities.
 - Propose criteria for LACMONT network trademark use.
 - Seek partnerships with Government, Companies, Civil and Academic Society

- General Secretariat

- Act as a support structure in connecting members to organize joint activities, ensuring larger participation.
- Carry out the General Administration with respect to its integration needs.
- Track Members' Registrations and affiliation
- Support and organize submission of funding proposals and fundraising for projects.
- Structure and implement the network communication activities.

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- Knowledge Exchange Co-Lab

- Organize and support organization of events: Thematic Meetings - Seminars - Lectures - Awards
- Promote projects to foster education, awareness and capacity enhancement for with local communities in mountain environments.
- Develop technical and teaching materials for the Network, such as Infographics, Thematic Calendar, Glossary, Interactive Maps and others
- Promote and stimulate publication of teaching, artistic and scientific publications in the media and academic journals.

- Innovation Co-Lab

- Create mechanisms to promote innovation and dissemination of innovative practices in mountain environments, including research on the subject.
- Monitor and evaluate the benefits, impacts and/or results generated by implemented projects.
- Manage communication data and information.
- Create and update a WEB platform aimed at seeking to integrate various researchers from the countries taking part on this network, to establish partnerships and to publicize their projects.
- Integrate the Network with the strategy of Open Science and Open Data, in order to promote knowledge sharing in mountain environments.

- Research Co-Lab

- Validate the suggested themes: agroecology, conservation and value aggregation of agrobiodiversity products, adaptation to climate change, rural tourism/ecotourism, forest, soil and water conservation, territorial development, ecosystem services, sustainable land use in rural and urban spaces, inclusive public policies related to these and other relevant topics.
- Define priority themes and research groups focusing on the needs of the planet, aligning science with the challenges faced by mountain environments, including the local communities.

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