

## *Presentation to Parties on the results of Small Grants Program*

On Wednesday 17 November 2021 the presentation of the research projects of the IAI's Small Grants Program was celebrated. The main objective was to inform the Parties on the progress of the initiatives. Different issues of global environmental change were addressed and divided into three topics: I) regional climate crisis, livelihoods, II) fisheries and aquatic ecosystems and III) sociological systems.

Within the regional climate crisis issue, vulnerability to fires in the Amazon was addressed, as well as their increase in the recent years in the cross-border area of Peru, Brazil and Bolivia. As an example, the project "Multi-stakeholder adaptation plan to deal with forests at increasing risk of fires" (SGP-HW 016) led by Dr. Liana Anderson highlighted that the Amazon forest is retaining less carbon due to the progress of deforestation and land use change in the studied area. It was also mentioned how the virtual platform developed by the project contributes to the monitoring and alert of fire probability being of great interest to the population and local authorities.

Another issue related to the regional climate crisis was the importance of water governance, especially the border areas of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, in the project "Transforming water governance in South America: from reaction to adaptation and anticipation" (SGP-HW 056) led by Dr. Micaela Trimble. Among the conclusions of this research, there is the existence of a "water crisis" that, apart from being a complex problem with multiple causes, actors and consequences, it can be a trigger for adaptive measures such as monitoring, early warning systems and management plans. Committees composed of users, government and civil society play a paramount role in the joint search for actions to face the crisis.

In the area of fisheries and coastal ecosystems and their importance to human well-being, Dr. Jeremy Pittman from the project "Artisanal fisheries and marine ecosystem services: adaptation and transformation to ensure human well-being" (SGP-HW 017) shared how the capacity to adapt to global change is found in communities but can be increased through governance. To achieve this, it is important that there is the co-production of the knowledge that is needed among scientists, decision makers and civil society and communities. The work of this research team was included in the Washington Post journalistic series which won the Pulitzer Award in 2020.

With regard to water security in South America, the main factors of influence such as droughts, land use change, algal blooms, and the use and management of water resources by different sectors were mentioned. The project "Improving floodplain governance in overbuilt river basins" (SGP-HW 091) shared its work on the Paraná river basin, which includes a predictive

model for the hydroelectric system that shows the tension that global environmental change can generate between the demands of hydroelectric power generation and ecosystem services.

Finally, issues of ecological resilience to global environmental change and how communities perceive and cope with climate change were addressed. Even though, due to COVID-19, the work with remote communities was affected, the thematic group teams "Actors involved in transdisciplinary science and socio-ecological systems" presented the advances of their workshops and preliminary observations. The project "Incorporating local and traditional knowledge systems: New points of view for ecosystem services and transdisciplinary collaborations" (SGP-HW 072) led by Gabriela Alonso Yanez has worked with communities in Chile, Colombia and Uruguay to understand successful cases of participatory biodiversity governance and ecosystem services in protected areas, initiatives for communal conservation and collaborative actions with the private sector. Making use of the transdisciplinary approach, they have analysed the strategies of the actors to respond to the challenges of power asymmetry, pluralism in knowledge systems and conflict resolution.

Using ecological information from Argentina, Brazil and Colombia, the project "Socio-ecological resilience to global environmental change in heterogeneous territories – building a common platform for research and action" (SGP-HW 090) explained how it prepared a comparative baseline of the territory that provides economic, social and geographical variables that could be used to understand similarities and heterogeneities.

## LINKS TO VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

Multi-stakeholder adaptation plan to deal with forests at increasing risk of fires (SGP-HW 016), Dra. Liana Anderson - <https://youtu.be/CwZzmV-a1Lo?t=480>

Transforming water governance in South America: from reaction to adaptation and anticipation (SGP-HW 056), Dra. Micaela Trimble <https://youtu.be/CwZzmV-a1Lo?t=1609>

Artisanal fisheries and marine ecosystem services: adaptation and transformation to ensure human well-being (SGP-HW 017), Dr. Jeremy Pittman - <https://youtu.be/CwZzmV-a1Lo?t=3140>

Improving floodplain governance in overbuilt river basins (SGP-HW 091), Dr. Guilherme Fernandes Marques - <https://youtu.be/CwZzmV-a1Lo?t=3973>

Socio-ecological resilience to global environmental change in heterogeneous territories – building a common platform for research and action (SGP-HW 090), Dr. Diego Cabrol - <https://youtu.be/CwZzmV-a1Lo?t=5148>

Actors involved in transdisciplinary science and socio-ecological systems (SGP-HW 072), Dra. Gabriela Alonso Yanez, Dra. Lily Peters - <https://youtu.be/CwZzmV-a1Lo?t=5990>

LINK TO THE REPORTS AND INFOGRAPHICS:  
[https://www.iai.int/es/structure/policy\\_briefs\\_and\\_notes](https://www.iai.int/es/structure/policy_briefs_and_notes)

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