

La biodiversité dans la coopération au développement universitaire flamande



Inge Vandevyvere

The role of universities in development – VLIR-UOS model

Higher Education Institutions contribute to sustainable development



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Higher Education Institutions empowered in their role as drivers of change

Individuals empowered as change agents



Projects & programmes

Improved Research

Improved Education

New knowledge, applications or services created + UPTAKE

Education & scholarships



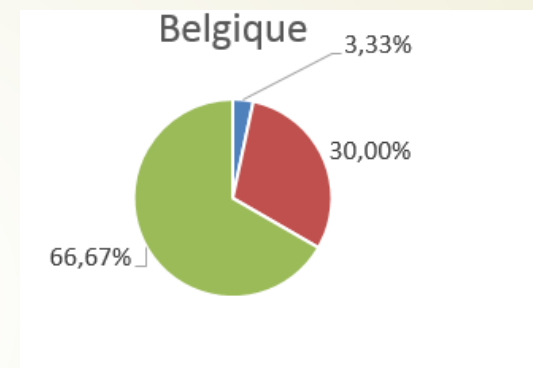
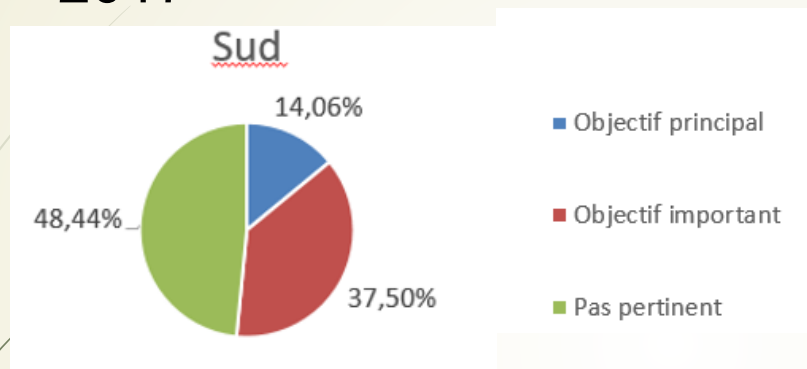
New knowledge & skills

Training & Master programmes

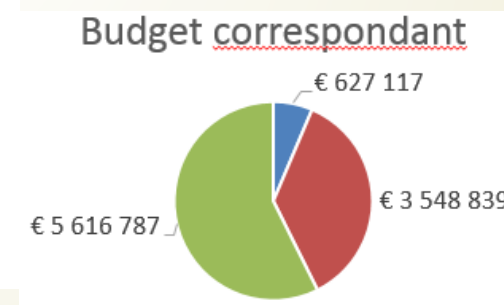
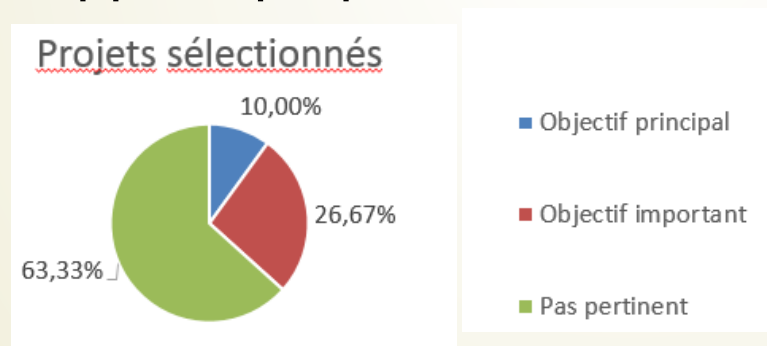
Capacity development of Flemish HEI to create the conditions for university cooperation for development

Biodiversité dans les programmes

- 2017



- Appel à propositions 2018



Bridging social innovation and just conservation in the quest for sustainable socio-ecological development

Prof. Constanza Parra

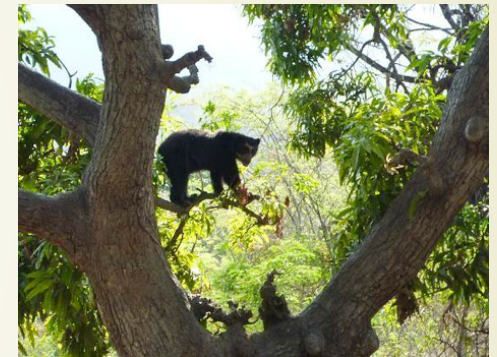
Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, KU Leuven

"Colloquium Biodiversity for Development, a way forward to the SDGs"

Cebios - Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences

Brussels, 28 May 2018

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What does the research on protected areas and conservation say?

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PAs as a history of success and human progress

(Sulton & Dudley, 2010)

- ▶ **source of entire well-being:** health, recreation, purity of water, food stores, hazard mitigation, biodiversity conservation, cultural diversity, role in mitigating/controlling climate change, peace, education, sustainability, ecosystem services...

PAs as a tragic record of failure (Brockington et al., 2008; Fairhead et al. 2012)

- ▶ **Gap between values and practices:** powerless regarding capitalism forces; instrument of neoliberal policies; disempowerment of rural/indigenous groups; conservation-induced displacement, nature/land grabbing (*Political ecology, environmental justice, environmental sociology*)



The governance of protected areas for biodiversity conservation

- ▶ Conservation and governance of PAs have always been **difficult**, and a source of **conflicts** between different actors, interests and development alternatives.
- ▶ Governance of conservation has changed along history, since the foundation of the first national parks till today. There is a variety of **mechanisms (and fashions, discourses)** for conservation:
 - ▶ National parks (central state)
 - ▶ Regional/municipal parks (other public authorities)
 - ▶ Community-based conservation (local communities, indigenous groups,..)
 - ▶ Payment for Ecosystem Services i.e. REDD+ (market-based/inspired approaches)



The governance of PAs for biodiversity conservation: A plea for bridging societal and ecological needs

- ▶ Conservation **targets** and **urgency** will keep on growing (climate change, biodiversity, urbanisation, uncontrolled extractivism...)
 - ▶ Who will make the efforts?
 - ▶ Who will pay the costs?
 - ▶ Whose needs will be prioritized? A plea for bridging societal and ecological needs



Bridging social innovation and just conservation in the quest for sustainable socio-ecological development

Key questions

- What is socially sustainable & fair when it comes to biodiversity conservation?
- How to accommodate conservation goals with those of a sustainable socio-ecological development ones?

Empowering and inclusive capacity building

- Building mutual trust
- Co-production of knowledge (inclusive, critical, creative)
- Hierarchies and power asymmetries within social groups (interculturality, gender, language,...)
- bottom-linked social innovation.

1. Research problematique

From just conservation to sustainable socio-ecological development of PAs

2. Concepts & theory

Governance of socio-ecological development, environmental justice, political ecology, social innovation

Socio-ecological development in PAs

- Multi-scalar analysis of the socio-political, economic, cultural environments in which conservation efforts unfold (spatial and temporal scales):
 - Complex & unfavourable;
 - Social innovation for sustainable socio-ecological development (Aichi + SDGs)

4. Goals, challenges and outcomes in terms of capacity building

Empowerment at partner universities and community levels

3. Methodological approach & research methods

*Inter-/transdisciplinarity
Inclusive participatory action research*

Inter/transdisciplinary action research

- Inclusive, participatory and sensitive to local needs
- Involvement of a diverse mix of stakeholders
- Co-design of research questions, methods, analyses, policy recommendations (i.e. participatory mapping, participatory workshops, interculturality, power dynamics, etc.)

Sustainable rural development through community-based and bottom-linked ecotourism in the Chaparri Nature Reserve Region, North of Peru (VLIR-UOS SI, 2017-2018)



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Triggering sustainable development and indigenous social inclusion through community-based REDD+ in the Peruvian Amazon (VLIR-UOS TEAM, 2018-2021)



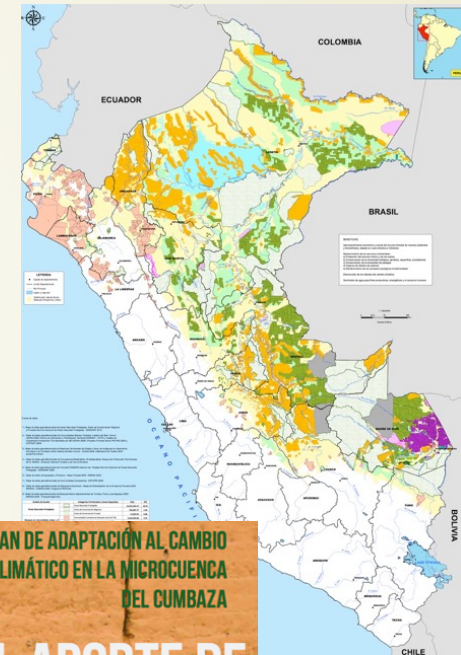
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Inclusive Rural Development through social innovation in land access and governance initiatives in Nicaragua (VLIR-UOS TEAM, 2018-2021)



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Final reflections on the way to the SDGs

On the need to understand biodiversity conservation efforts and struggles within a larger quest for sustainable socio-ecological development

- ▶ It is not only about biodiversity but also about the variety of communities who use, access, transform, inhabit, exploit, harm, take care of and love these places.
- ▶ The challenge of biodiversity conservation is about: (1) Justice, equity and inclusion, and (2) Bottom-linked social innovation.
- ▶ SDGs and Aichi Targets not as individual parcels but in their dynamic synergetic potential.
- ▶ The roles of action research for a socially innovative capacity building:
 - ▶ Inter/transdisciplinarity
 - ▶ Inclusive, participatory and sensitive to local needs
 - ▶ Empowerment of academic and non-academic communities (i.e. empowerment through research-driven education)

