



Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management
ALUMNI EXPERT NETWORK

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Latin America Regional Alumni Capacity Building and Networking Seminar

Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Governance and
Policy Making in Latin America – A Cross-country Learning Exchange

22 – 28 September 2024 in La Plata, Argentina



UNIVERSIDAD
NACIONAL
DE LA PLATA



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-FLORES

Institute for Integrated Management
of Material Fluxes and of Resources

Background

The professional alumni network "Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management (INREM)" was founded in 2022 as a global network of experts. Located at the Faculty of Environmental Sciences of the Technische Universität Dresden (TU Dresden), INREM unites the international higher education programs with developmental relevance in the environmental sector. As an interdisciplinary North-South-South expert network, INREM brings together alumni in a transnational initiative. It aims to facilitate regular exchange of experiences, social learning and international networking among its members. Interdisciplinary and integrative thinking and action are the guiding principles of INREM. Both are essential for promoting sustainable development in the sense of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.





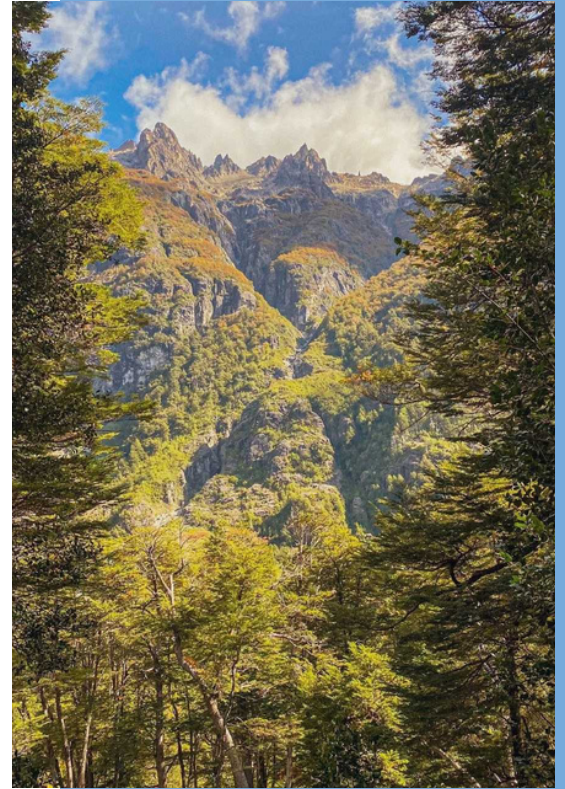
Seminar Concept and Aim

For years, Latin America has been experiencing a growing number of socio-environmental conflicts, often leading to open protest and sometimes violence. The mining of mineral resources in the Andes, the extraction of fossil fuels, the construction of hydroelectric power plants, or the expansion of industrial agriculture (e.g., soy production) in the rainforest areas along the Amazon River illustrate the dominance of a resource-extractive, socially contested development path in many countries of the region. The economic growth generated is associated with high ecological risks, manifesting in unequally distributed (ecological and social) costs across society. This increasingly leads to resource conflicts over land, water and other natural resources, which are fought out within complex and multi-layered governance structures. These political processes involve different sectors (agriculture, forestry, water management, biodiversity conservation) and actors such as indigenous groups, citizens' movements, communities, investors and corporations, policymakers and government institutions at different scales.

Designed as a cross-country learning exchange, this regional alumni seminar will look at environmental development problems across Latin America from an interdisciplinary and actor-oriented perspective. It addresses scientists and practitioners from Latin America, working in universities, research organizations, state administration, civil society organizations, the corporate sector and development agencies having a stake in environmental and natural resources management, including land, water, forest and biodiversity and other relevant fields. The seminar provides opportunities to strengthening capacities on integrative and actor-oriented management and governance concepts through scientific exchange, intensive discussions and practice-oriented field excursions. Beyond joint learning, the seminar aims at consolidating and expanding relationships and partnerships among the alumni in Latin America within and across disciplines, sectors, organizations and countries.

Eligibility Criteria for participation

The seminar addresses **nationals from Latin America** who formerly studied (BSc, MSc, PhD) or participated in short-term trainings (minimum 3 months) at a **German university**, and are **currently living and working in their home countries**. Interested alumni from all disciplines (natural and social sciences) and all sectors (science and research, administration, civil society, private sector, development cooperation) engaged in natural resources and environmental management are cordially invited to apply



Application procedure

- A filled out application form. The form is available on: <https://tu-dresden.de/bu/umwelt/forst/inter/tropen/networks/alumni-seminars>
- Applications further include a short CV with photograph and relevant documentation of alumni status. An abstract for a poster presentation relevant to the aim and content of the seminar taking reference to the participant's home country
- The PDF-document should be named 'Last name_First name_country' e.g.: *Mustermann_Mara_Germany*

Please send your application as one single pdf file latest by **31 March 2024** via email to: simon.benedikter@tu-dresden.de

Please note: Completeness of personal data mentioned in the online application form will affect your eligibility as a participant.

After the review by the organizing committee, the invited participants will be notified by **20 April 2024**.

For further questions, please contact Simon Benedikter:
simon.benedikter@tu-dresden.de, + 49 351 463 31841

Organizers and Sponsors

The regional Latin American alumni seminar is hosted by the Universidad Nacional de La Plata in cooperation with the TU Dresden and UNU-FLORES. The costs will be mainly covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



During the seminar the participants will engage with current environmental development problems in their home countries and the region from an interdisciplinary and actor-oriented perspective. Through technical contributions and practice-oriented group work on governance and policy analysis, alumni are encouraged to develop sustainable and integrative solutions on their own.

Based on a participatory program design the seminar includes:

- Keynotes by selected alumni, guest speakers (IUFRO, CIEPS) and German experts from TUD and UNU-FLORES
- Alumni poster sessions as cross-country learning exchange
- Field excursions in combination with an interactive simulation game
- Visiting and exchange with local and international organizations
- Social and cultural events in Buenos Aires and La Plata

The seminar language is English!



How to prepare your poster abstract?

The following questions provide some guidance what of the topics that should be covered in your proposed poster presentation:

- What kind of environmental problems and socio-ecological crises dominate in your home country? What policies have been formulated to address them?
- How have governance structures changed in the course of environmental and resource conflicts in your home country?
- Which interests and power relations dominate the governance system and how can key actors for be strengthened (empowerment) to achieve more sustainability?
- How can the governance structures and institutional arrangements be changed in such a way that policy processes become more sectorally integrative (policy integration)?

