

# Biocultural Diversity in Farming Landscapes of the Global South

## Summary

Biocultural diversity (BCD), that is the diversity of life in all its manifestations - including biological, cultural and linguistic - is declining at an unprecedented speed. Alarming, this loss goes hand in hand with many biophysical and socio-economic changes that are unsustainable, and there is an urgent need to understand and promote transformative pathways towards sustainability. While previous studies on biocultural diversity have mainly focused on the inventory and conservation of existing diversity, this project will assess how BCD is linked to indicators of sustainability and how it can contribute to more sustainable futures.

Duration:  
June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 until  
April 30<sup>th</sup> 2024



## Research Questions

- 1 How can biocultural diversity be described?
- 2 What different manifestations of biocultural diversity can be observed for different landscapes?
- 3 How is biocultural diversity linked to ecological and social indicators of sustainability?
- 4 How does governance foster biocultural diversity and its link to sustainability?
- 5 In which ways can biocultural diversity contribute to sustainability transformations?

## Work Packages

We will first review the existing literature on the topic and reflect on the concept and its links with sustainability. Second, we will empirically assess how BCD is linked to indicators of sustainability in a case study in Bolivia and which governance mechanisms it benefits from. This will be realized through inter- and transdisciplinary research that takes into account aspects related to environmental justice, wellbeing and gender in the case study area. Third, we will assess how BCD can contribute to sustainability in other farming landscapes of the Global South through a set of stakeholder workshops. The project will generate a holistic understanding of how biocultural diversity can contribute to sustainability. The findings of the study will be widely communicated to local communities, academia and national and international stakeholders.

## Project Partners

TIERRA is a Bolivian non-governmental organization dedicated to the search for ideas that contribute to the sustainable rural development of indigenous and peasant communities. TIERRA is our local partner in Bolivia.



The Heinrich Böll Foundation is a political forum for green ideas and projects and an international network with offices in 30 countries. The collaboration with the Heinrich Böll Foundation includes interactions with the international offices, the joint publication of project results and the organisation of a panel discussion in Germany.



Bioversity International is a global research-for-development organization with the vision to harness agrobiodiversity in order to nourish people and sustain the planet. Together with Bioversity we will develop and implement the global comparative study on how biocultural diversity contributes to sustainability across a range of different farming landscapes in the Global South.

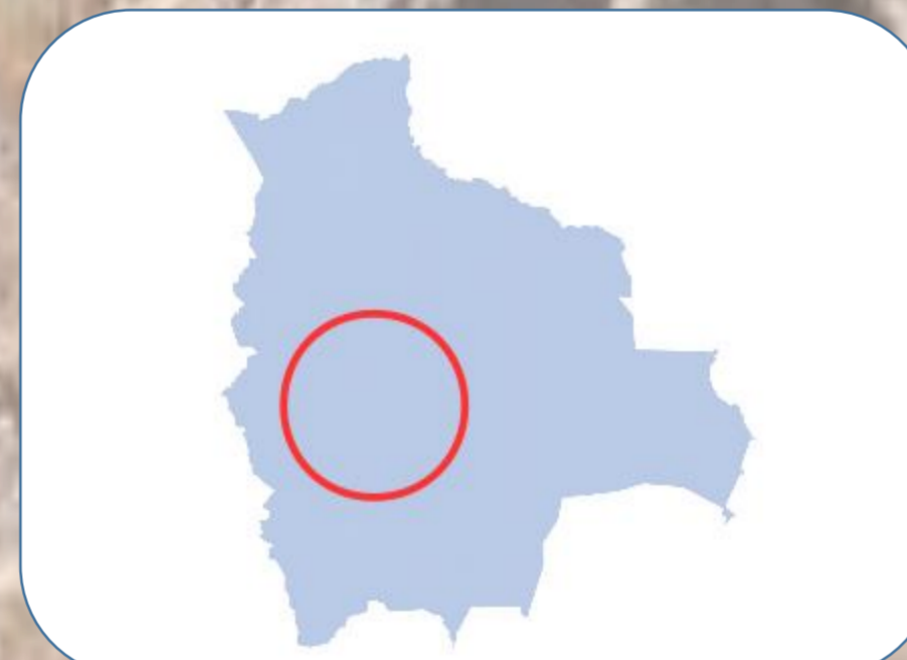


PECS is a Future Earth Global Research Project and is hosted and funded by the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC). Our project is part of the PECS network as an in-depth case study.



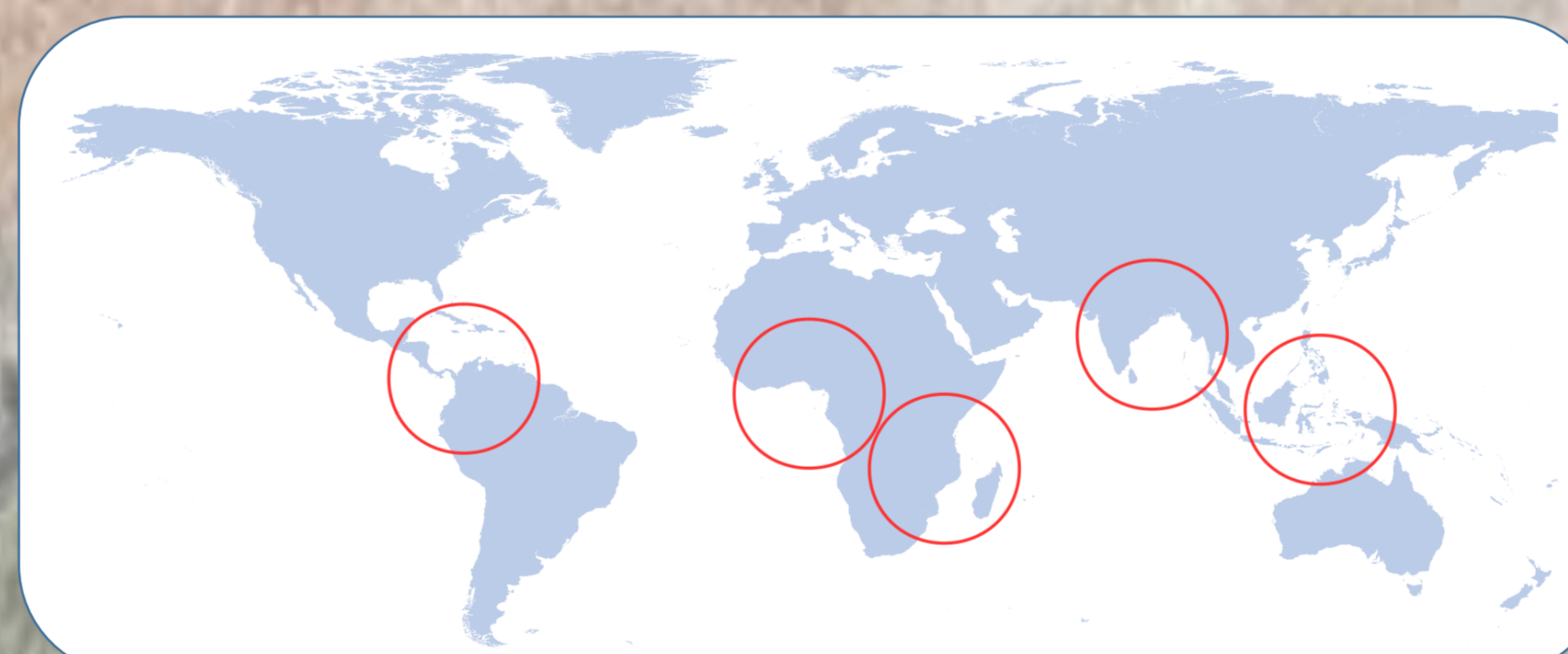
### WP 1: Literature review

Overview over the application of the concept in the scientific literature and its links to sustainability



### WP 2-5: Case study research in Bolivia

Empirical assessment of biocultural diversity, its connections to sustainability and identification of relevant formal and informal governance mechanisms in a small-holder farming landscape in Bolivia



### WP6: Comparative study Global South

Systematic assessment of the contribution of biocultural diversity to sustainability in a range of farming landscapes throughout the Global South

### WP 7: Synthesis

Integration of research findings from all components, knowledge transfer and communication

## Team

Project Leader



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[www.leuphana.de/bioculturaldiversity](http://www.leuphana.de/bioculturaldiversity)