



Co-creation and transdisciplinary knowledge on the river in the Pacífico Econavipesca Project

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The objective of the Pacífico Econavipesca project is to develop a sustainable artisanal fishing model that reduces the environmental, social, and economic impacts on the ecosystem in the municipality of Guapi, Cauca, in Colombia. A major challenge is to reduce dependence on fossil fuels for the fishing boats and engage in dialogues with the local community about social entrepreneurship ventures to make fishing activities more sustainable long-term.



KTH Field Study

The KTH team focused on co-creative activities, engaging in dialogues between academics and local community representatives to take advantage of both traditional knowledge of local communities and scientific knowledge from several disciplines. Thus, acknowledging that local knowledge is key to achieve climate strategies and environmental objectives (IPCC, 2022).

The KTH field study that started in October 2022 focused on:

- i) community engagement, co-creation strategies and actor interactions to identify challenges and opportunities for sustainability
- ii) exploring methods for local community capacity building.

Ancestral knowledge of sail-making

Co-creation with the community

Themes of activities included local and ancestral knowledge, intergenerational knowledge sharing, roles of key change makers and other actors in the project, interaction between humans and the environment, importance of hands-on learning, and sharing of culture through food.

One co-creative field activity took place on the river, using ancestral knowledge of sail-making and testing the sails on the river. This was complemented by a workshop (combining perspectives from anthropology and socio-technical narratives of change) to understand what the activity of sailing meant for community members.



Policy Recommendations

1. Use specific historical, geographical, social, and environmental context and local knowledge
2. Include local representatives in transdisciplinary collaboration
3. Incorporate time for developing knowledge and skills of the local community
4. Acknowledge interlinkages between ecological, social, and economic factors
5. Find inspiration from United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide policy-making and enable synergies between different SDGs in your local environment.



Conclusions about knowledge, co-creation and change

The study shows that local community values and narratives of change can influence knowledge transferred to the next generation. Thus, shaping sustainability outlooks and local communities' relations with the river.

Co-creation results not only in material solutions, but also cognitive development and capacity building of actors. Workshop activities improved our understanding of inter-generational knowledge. This is relevant since sustainable development, coined in the Brundtland Report "Our Common Future" (1987), implies not compromising possibilities of future generations.



References:

- IPCC (2022) Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, IPCC-WG 2.
- UN (1987) Our Common Future, United Nations, Oxford Univ. Press.

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