



Weaving equitable research partnerships to advance global and planetary health

Anna Stewart Ibarra, Ph.D., MPA

Executive Director, IAI

31 January 2024



Science

Current Issue First rel

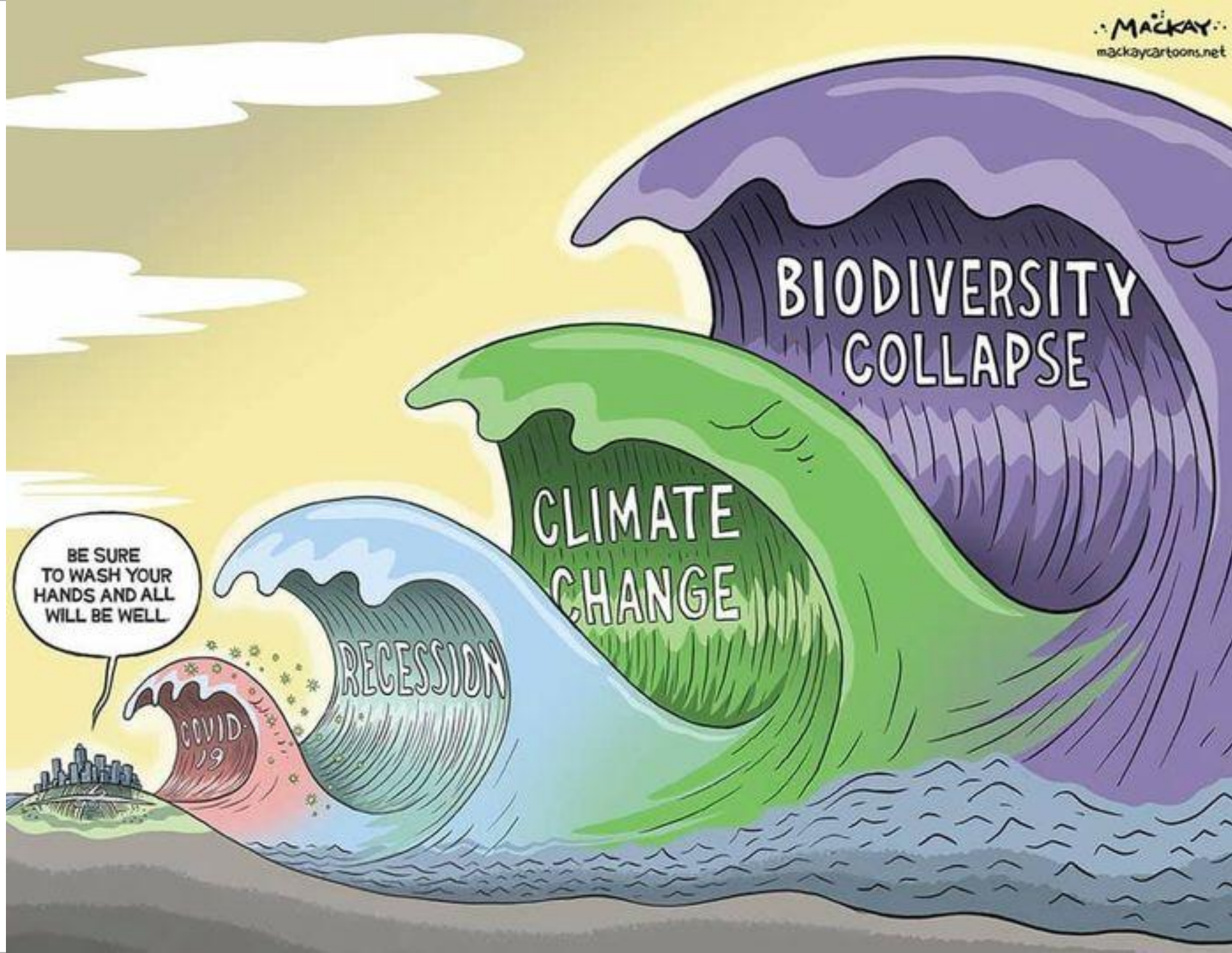
HOME > SCIENCE > VOL. 375, NO. 6586 > A FABRIC OF LIFE VIEW OF THE WORLD

🔒 | EDITORIAL

A fabric of life view of the world

SANDRA DÍAZ [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)





BE SURE
TO WASH YOUR
HANDS AND ALL
WILL BE WELL.

COVID
19

RECESSION

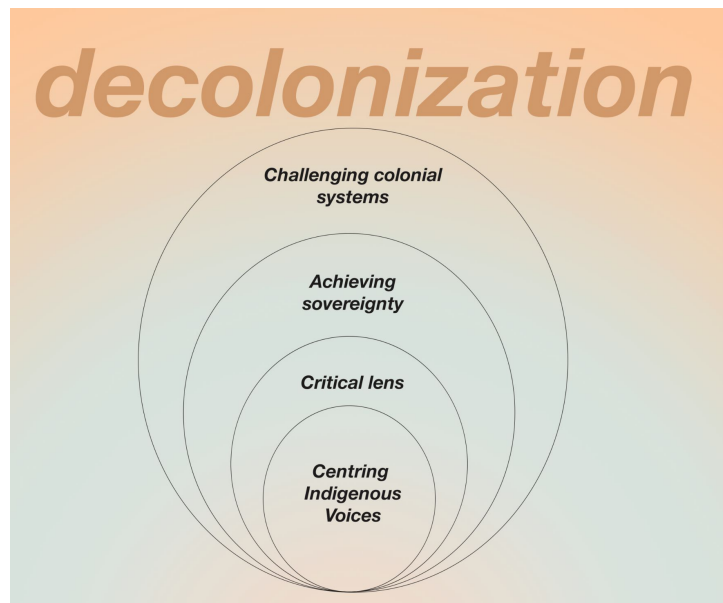
CLIMATE
CHANGE

BIODIVERSITY
COLLAPSE

Interconnected, relational, disruptive



Faerron Guzman et al.



Created by and for the Indigenous Foundation, Design by Meera Baswan



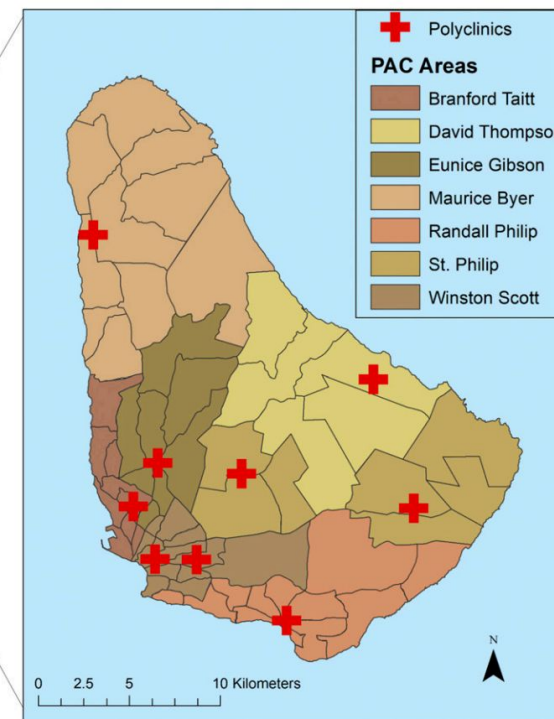
Weaving global health partnerships from academia



My journey as a scientist



Dengue early warning in Barbados



Lippi et al.



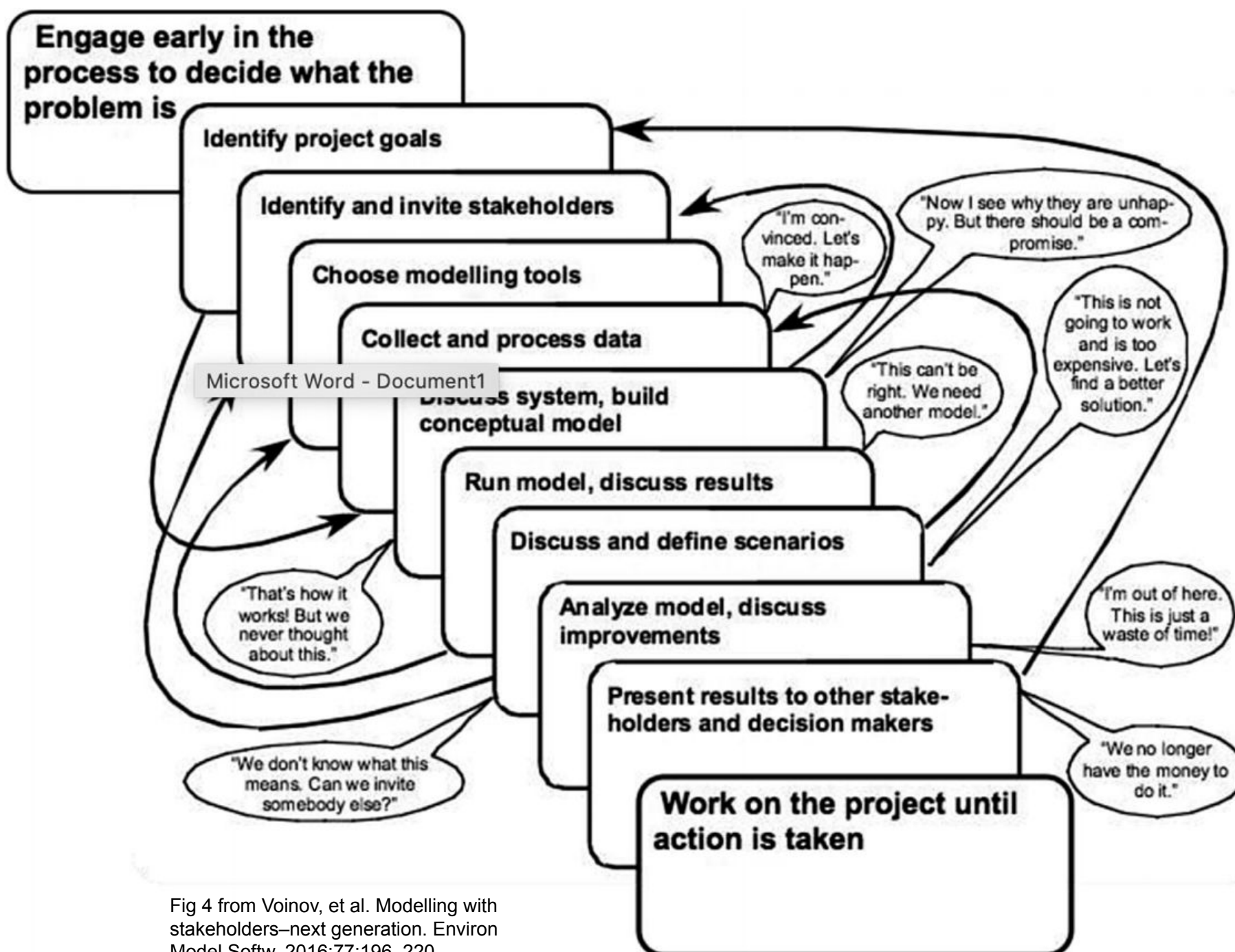


Fig 4 from Voinov, et al. Modelling with stakeholders—next generation. Environ Model Softw. 2016;77:196–220.

How to strengthen climate-health partnerships

- Political mandates on climate & health
- Political will (leadership).
- Formal institutional agreements.
- Data sharing agreements between sectors.
- National Committees on climate & health.
- Regular meetings for climate & health sectors to review seasonal climate forecasts.
- Joint training for climate-health sectors.

Barbados Port, 2017



The application of climate information can reduce the risk of diseases like Zika. Credit: Moory M. Romero, SUNY.

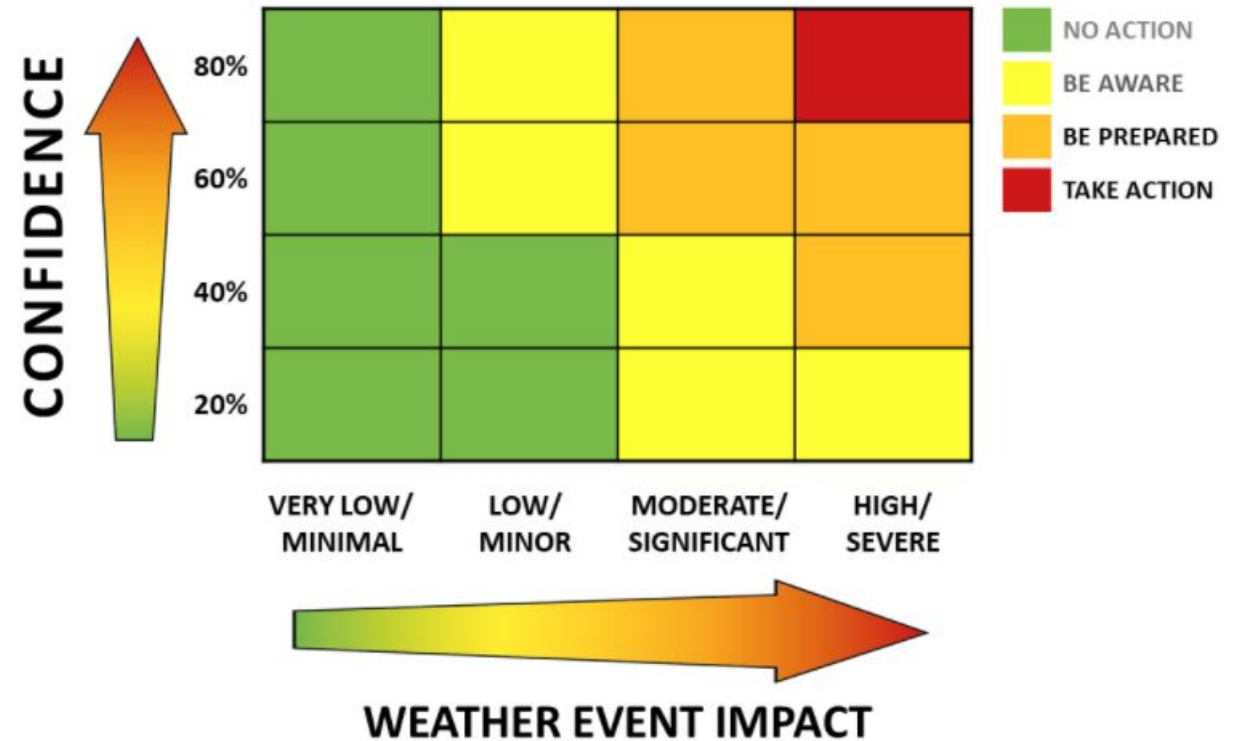
Dengue Early Warning Tool

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Nonlinear and delayed impacts of climate on dengue risk in Barbados: A modelling study

Rachel Lowe^{1,2,3*}, Antonio Gasparini^{4,5}, Cédric J. Van Meerbeeck⁶, Catherine A. Lippi⁷, Roché Mahon⁶, Adrian R. Trotman⁶, Leslie Rollock⁸, Avery Q. J. Hinds⁹, Sadie J. Ryan^{7,10}, Anna M. Stewart-Ibarra^{11,12}

- Drought followed by heavy rainfall 4-5 months later increases the risk of dengue outbreaks.
- Increasing risk of dengue outbreaks with minimum temperatures increasing up to 25°C.



Lessons learned

- Listen first.
- Political leadership and strong governance are key.
- Trust, patience, and persistence are central to a long-term process of partnership.



BMJ Global Health

Co-learning during the co-creation of a dengue early warning system for the health sector in Barbados

Weaving partnerships from an intergovernmental organization



Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)

19

Member countries

32 years

Declaration of Montevideo (1992)

Supporting global change science for a more sustainable and resilient Americas.

Principles of scientific excellence, international cooperation and full and open exchange of scientific information relevant to global environmental change.



IAI Conference of the Parties





- Transdisciplinary research (TD) is necessary when there is high uncertainty and urgency.
- Research is situated in the broader sociopolitical contexts.
- Focused on equitable & respectful collaborations.
- Require reflection on whose knowledge is represented and who benefits from the research.
- Critically examines power asymmetries, colonial legacies, sexism/racism, etc.



What? A partnership of 39 funding organizations, international science councils, and regional consortia committed to advancing TD science. *Hosted by IAI.*

Focus: International TD research that provides knowledge for understanding, mitigating, and adapting to global environmental change.

How? Collaborative Research Actions

To be eligible, the project must be co-developed by natural scientists, social scientists, & stakeholders from at least 3 countries.



CLIMATE ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH II

www.belmontforum.org/cras#ceh22023



Call themes

- Decision-science of environmental behavior and implementation
- Food, Environment, and Biological Security
- Climate Risks to Ecosystems & Populations

BELMONT
F O R U M

*bringing international funders together
to tackle societally relevant, global
environmental change research*

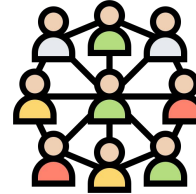
Projects will be selected and awarded mid-2024.



Funding Priorities in Latin America & Caribbean



Open-source solutions to make information and tools available



Creating and supporting a research-policy **community of practice**



Co-development of information that is applicable by diverse subject matter experts and practitioner types



Training in transdisciplinary approaches & science communication



National
Science
Foundation



United States
Global Change
Research Program

BELMONT
F O R U M



More than 5000 people trained across the Americas

Pan American Climate Resilient Health Systems



Free Certificate-Based Course

April 4 - May 2, 2023

Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:00-11:30 AM EST | 11:00-12:30 PM
UYT

English, Spanish, French
Interpretation Available

Free Certificate-
Based Program

Session Video
Recordings Available



Santé
Canada Health
Canada

El Niño in the Americas: Protecting Health and Promoting Resilience
El Niño en las Américas: Proteger la salud y promover la resiliencia

6-session course with certificate
curso de 6 sesiones con certificado

10-26 Oct. 2023

Register for free | Inscribirse sin costo



New course on climate, health, and migration coming soon!



Climate, Environment and Health Responders in the Americas: Mobilizing Transdisciplinary Knowledge and training for policy action



7-week virtual training
Transdisciplinary skills
Science communication
Sep-Nov 2022

In-person grant
workshop
March 2023

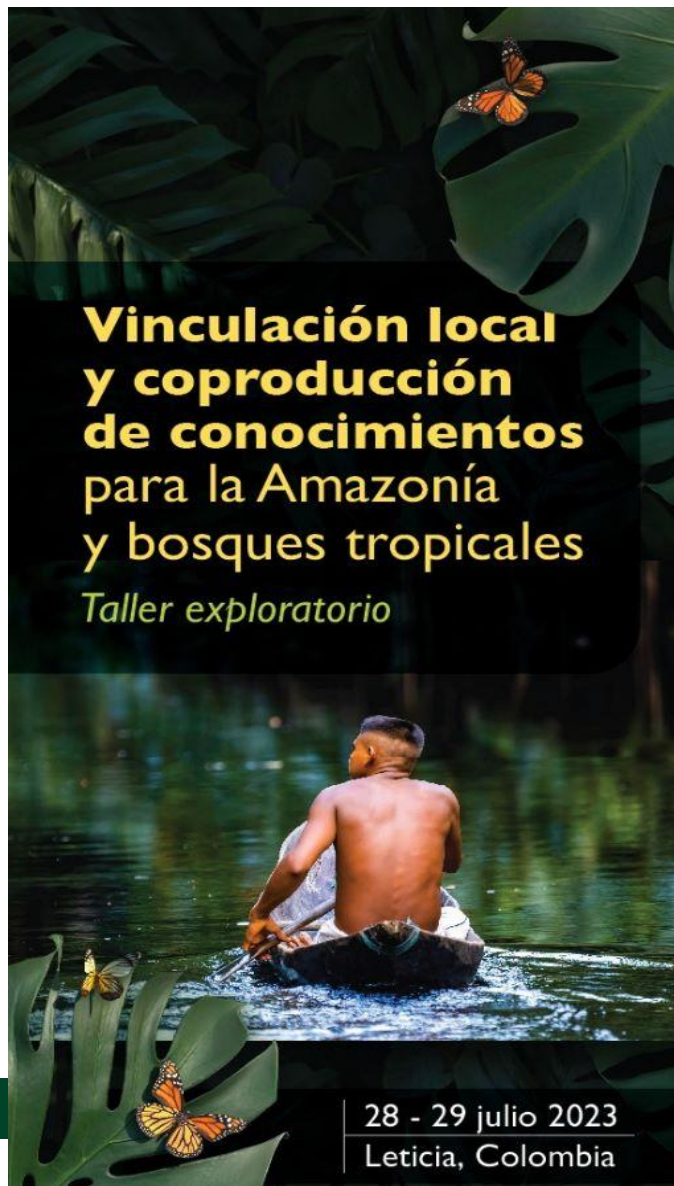
12 seed grants
awarded, 15
countries
2023-2024

Lessons learned

- For research to have an impact on public health, we need to design **spaces of dialogue and research processes** that bring together scientists, public and private sectors, & civil society.
- Training programs and seed grants are needed to build/strengthen research teams and increase EDI **before a funding call is launched.**
- Trust-based partnerships allow us to pool resources and align priorities/actions.
- Language matters.



New funding call to launch mid 2024



**Vinculación local
y coproducción
de conocimientos
para la Amazonía
y bosques tropicales**
Taller exploratorio

28 - 29 julio 2023
Leticia, Colombia

FORESTS 2024

This CRA aims to address urgent social-ecological challenges for the Tropical Forests.

Proposed themes:

- Reduce deforestation, sustainable development, and bioeconomy/locally led economies
- Ecosystem Function, Connectivity, and Climate Change Science
- Environmental Justice and Governance



IAI's Gender, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy



Advances:

- New advisory body comprised of people from indigenous and local communities
- Belmont is adapting the IAI's EDI policy
- Multilingual training on IAI's virtual campus.
- Multilingual global funding calls.





Virtual
Campus

TDA
TransDisciplinary
Academy

Science
Diplomacy
Center

- In-person training workshops to build capacities in transdisciplinary research and science diplomacy.
- Virtual self-paced multilingual courses at no cost.
- Library of multilingual resources.
- Books of case studies from Latin America & Caribbean.
- Tools to support the coordination of TD research.





Building relationships and generative interactions among participants



Foster networking & engagement opportunities for participants (Synchronous and asynchronous)



Understand how knowledge is produced and legitimated & how this legitimation intersects with issues of inequality, power and visibility

PEDAGOGICAL COMMITMENTS



Emphasis on case studies as the basis of module content - place-based and context-driven



Emphasize learning outcomes that are practical and applicable to cases and participants' contexts



Integrate and center local and traditional knowledge systems

Science Diplomacy Center

- Science in diplomacy: Science providing advice to inform and support foreign policy objectives
- Diplomacy for science: Diplomacy facilitating international scientific cooperation
- Science for diplomacy: Scientific cooperation improving international relations.

https://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/New_Frontiers.pdf



IAI Science Diplomacy Center



Climate and health at the UNFCCC COP28

hosted by Guatemala in partnership with IAI and Harvard School of Public Health



Science Diplomacy Training for Policy Makers

Introduction to Science Diplomacy Workshop: Panama | 16-21 October 2023



Panama Declaration

<https://www.iai.int/en/post/detail/Panama-Declaration>



The next generation of science-policy leaders



IAI STeP Fellows Leadership Statement



Book announcement!!

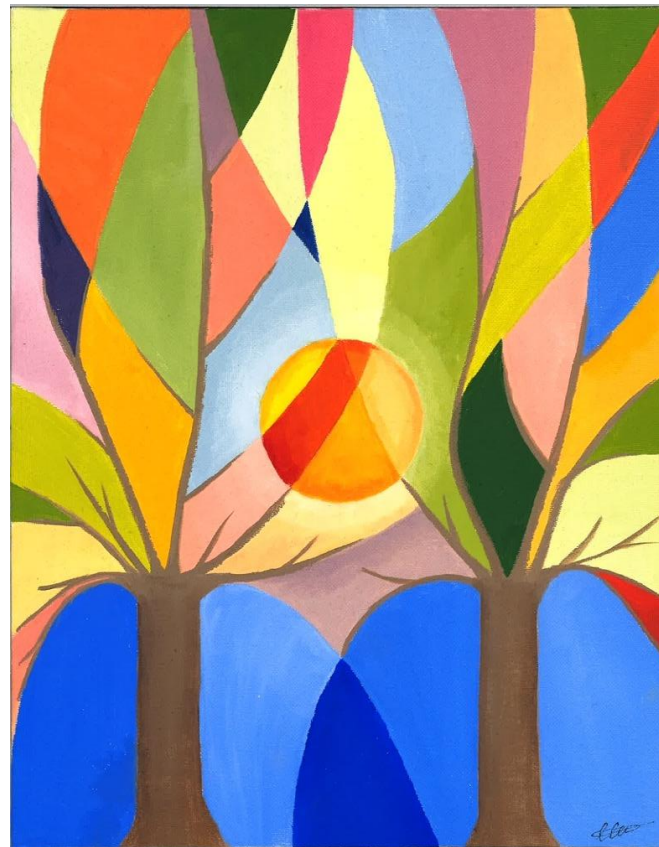


Transforming global health partnerships: critical reflections and visions of equitable relationships at the interface of research and practice.

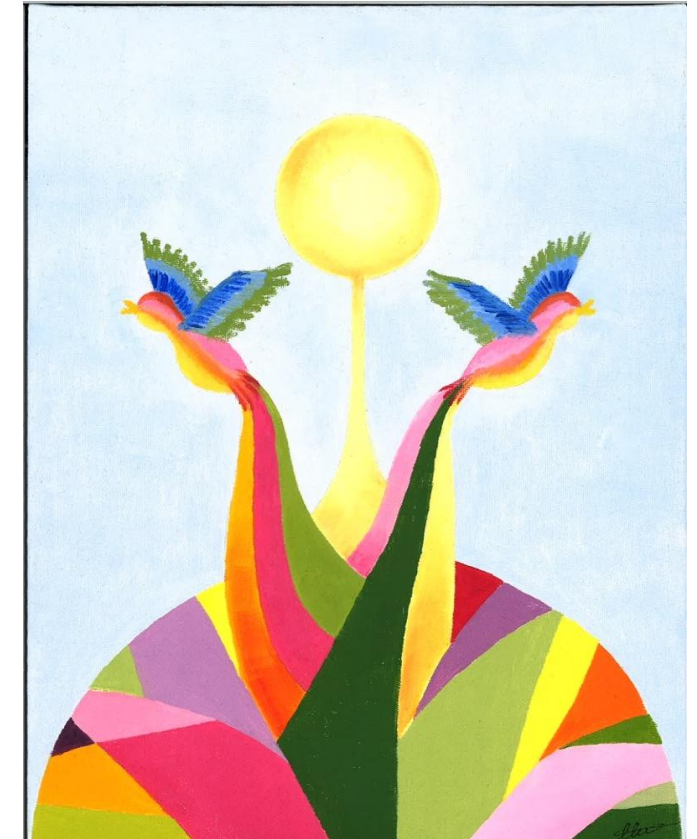
Co-edited with Desiree LaBeaud.



Foundations



Case studies



Future visions

Art by Mira Eugen Cheng



Key tenets from the book

Acknowledge colonialism & inequity

Disrupt the status quo

Repair our interconnectedness.

Experience the joy and power of human connections.

Center trust

Stay open and humble to learn.

Work within imperfect systems to drive change

Bring our whole selves in service.

Persist in hopefulness!

***It is not just what we do or who does it,
but how we work together in global health.***



SEMINAR SERIES | SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN AND PLANETARY HEALTH

Partnerships for Human & Planetary Health:

Bringing transdisciplinary solutions to global climate and health challenges

Thursday, February 1st 2024

4pm to 5:30pm PT

Spilker Room #232

+ virtual via Zoom



Register at bit.ly/3RQ4fxY

Thank you! Gracias!

Anna M. Stewart Ibarra
anna.stewart@dir.iai.int
@DrAnnaStewart



@IAI_news



@iai_globalchange



Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research



Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)

<https://www.iai.int/es>

