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ANNUAL REPORT

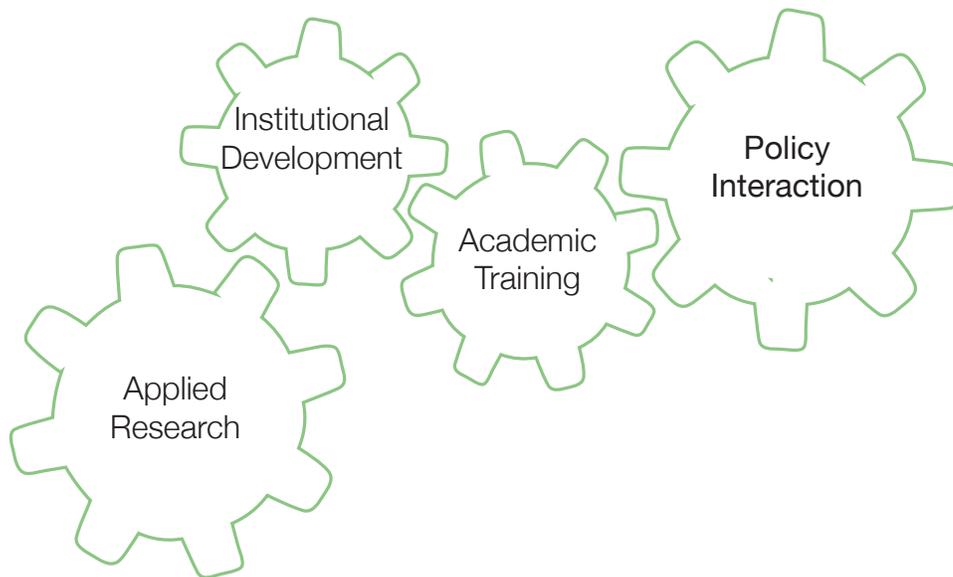
ANNUAL REPORT

Colombia
2017

Environment for Development

The EfD Initiative is a global network of environmental economics' research centers.

We contribute to effective management of the environment in the global south through:



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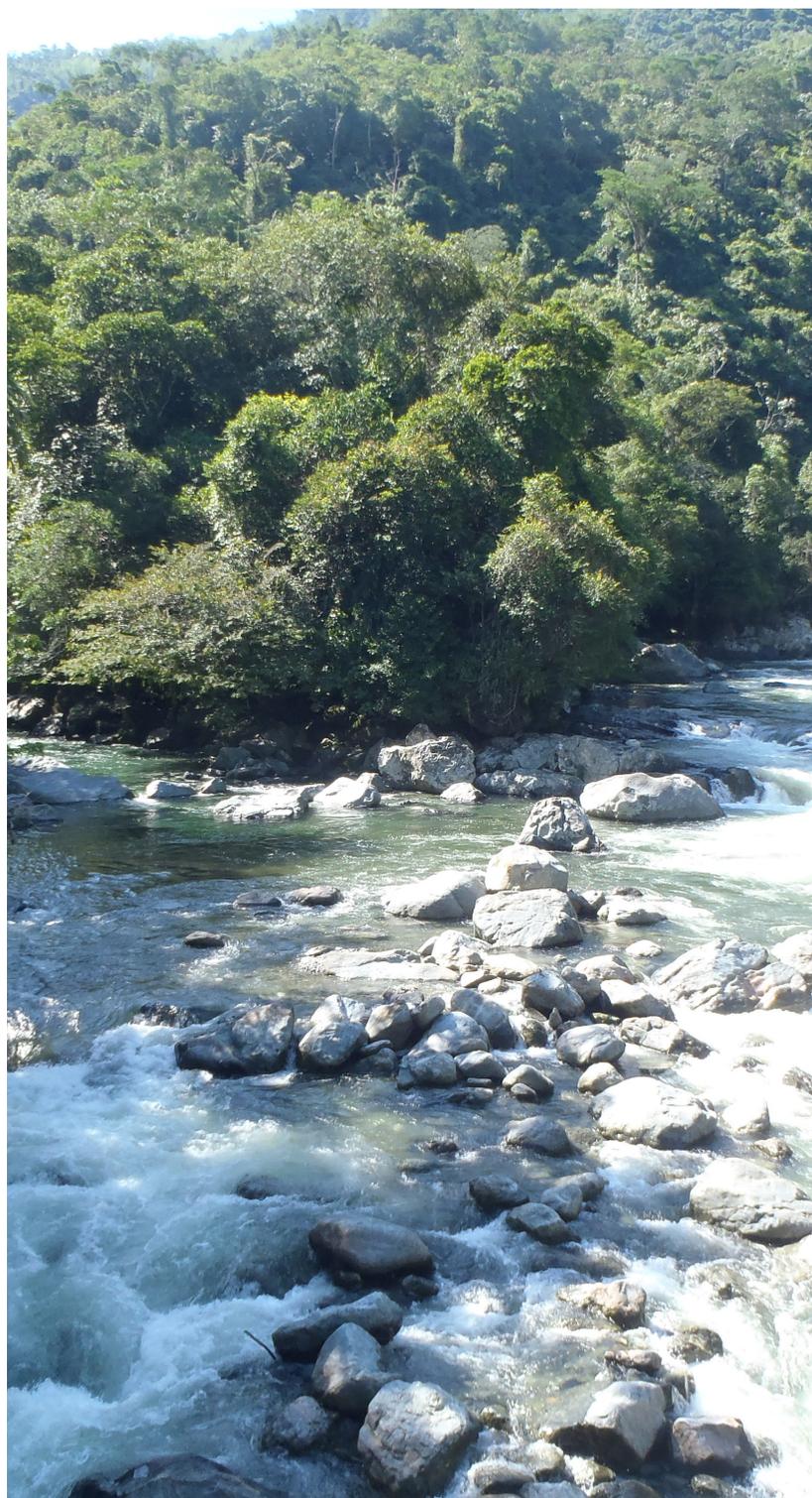
Director message

The Research Group on Environmental, Natural Resource, and Applied Economics Studies (REES), hosted by the Department of Economics at Universidad de Los Andes, joined the EfD network formally in 2017. The purpose was to promote the research agenda of several Colombian environmental economists and enhance the visibility of their policy-relevant research results.

During 2017 we started articulating several research initiatives linked to our projects as defined in the policy research review. We were also able to publish applied research in peer reviewed journals on topics such as conservation, policy instruments, and collective property rights, among others. Our researcher members published a total of 19 papers. Although these publications were not funded by EfD, the EfD network allows for our research to be disseminated and enhanced.

We also contributed to capacity building by means of teaching courses and supervision of the thesis work of the master's and PhD students. Furthermore, we supported the coordination of the Green Growth Symposium in Colombia jointly with the government's National Planning Department. This event became a platform to communicate our research results and interact with policy makers.

Santo Domingo River in Antioquia, Colombia. Photo by Santiago Arango



Research

In 2017 we conducted several research activities. Regarding the EfD projects, we began work on the project relating to the impact of collective titling on forest cover in the Colombian Pacific region in December. This research seeks to analyze the impact of the collective titling policy on sustainable management of natural resources such as forest conservation.

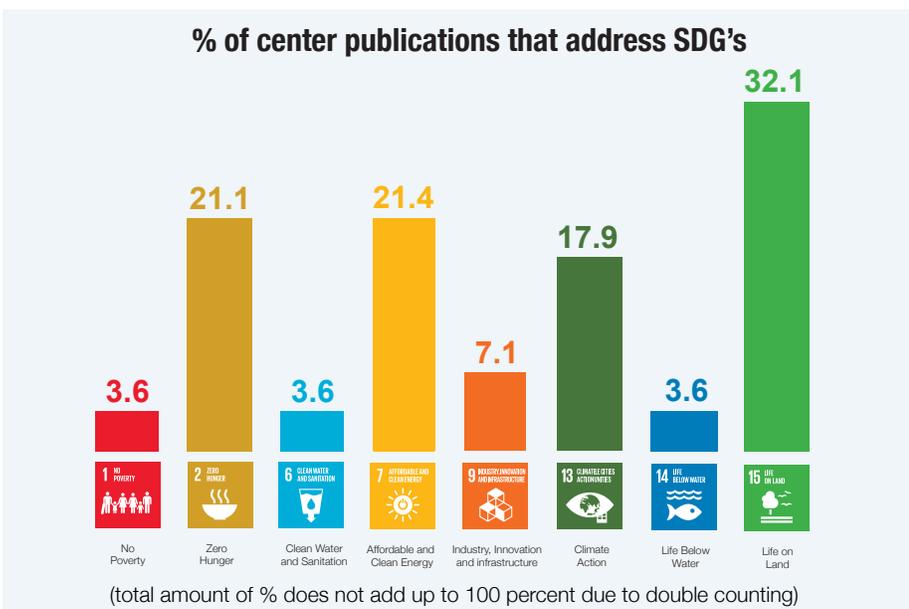
The other EfD project, titled “Bricks and trees, poor and rich: valuing land-use externalities in Bogota”, will start in 2018. The purpose of this research is to analyze the impacts of different land uses in the eastern hills in Bogotá.

We also prepared EfD research proposals, two of which will receive EfD financial support in 2018. The first project analyses the policy measures implemented in Medellín to face critical air pollution events. Medellín is one of the cities in Colombia with the most critical air quality situation. The second project collects data of livelihoods, food security, and sustainable management of fisheries harvested by local communities in marine protected areas in the Colombian Caribbean. Both projects contribute to the understanding of natural resources management and seek to provide insights for policy makers when designing environmental policies.

Furthermore, in 2017, REES researchers collaborated actively with researchers from diverse institutions and received financial support from other sources. As a result, researchers published 19 peer reviewed papers in international journals in areas related to our research lines in the policy research review, such as conservation of natural resources, governance, and impacts of consumption and production activities.



Inhabitants from the Pacific region in Colombia. Photo by Maria Alejandra Velez



*33 publications in 2017
19 Peer reviewed publications*

Collaborative Research Programs



Ecosystem Services Accounting for Development researchers at the 2017 workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

EfD has institutionalized south-south-north experience sharing through the research collaborations. The Sustainable Energy Transition Initiative (SETI) network, the Forestry Collaborative, and the Ecosystem Services Accounting for Development (ESAforD) that apply the “Community of Practice” approach have been very active during 2017. SETI organized a big workshop at Duke in May 2017 with more than 70 practitioners. Similarly, the forestry collaborative organized a meeting back-to-back with the EAERE annual conference in Athens in June 2017.

All collaboratives had meetings during the EfD annual meeting in Addis, Ethiopia in October. We now start to see the outcomes of these collaborations. There is increased learning between centers, and increased joint participation in various international meetings etc. We expect to see much more impacts in the years to come while these collaborations continue to mature.

*Sustainable Energy Transition Initiative Program leader
Subhrendu Pattanayak presenting at EfD's 2017
Annual Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*



Policy Interaction and Communication



The discussion panel on behavioural economics guided by EfD Colombia researcher Juan Camilo Cárdenas. Photo by the Department of Economics, Universidad de Los Andes

During 2017, REES collaborated with the coordination of the Green Growth Symposium. This symposium had the main support of the Department of Economics at Universidad de Los Andes, the Green Growth Mission, the National Planning Department, the Ministry of Finance, the Global Green Growth Institute, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Agency for Cooperation of France (AFD). The symposium was held from 18 to 19 July 2017, at Universidad de Los Andes. The purpose of this event was to disseminate the research results on green growth issues as they apply to Colombia, and facilitate the discussion between researchers and policy makers on these topics.

The symposium had four main topics: economic modelling behavioral economics, circular economy, and economic and financial instruments. International speakers participated, with expositions about green growth topics and experiences around the world. Also, members of the EfD research committee were invited as keynote speakers. Furthermore, EfD Colombia researchers presented their research results and were active members of the discussion panels.



The discussion panel on socio-economic experiments for the design of sustainable economic policies with researchers Jorge Bonilla and Jorge García. Photo by the Department of Economics, Universidad de Los Andes



The discussion panel on economic modelling with national and international speakers. Photo by the Department of Economics, Universidad de Los Andes.

Academic Capacity Building



Economics Class at Universidad de Los Andes. Photo by the Department of Economics at Universidad de Los Andes. Bogotá, Colombia.

During 2017, REES researchers supported master's and PhD students by supervising their thesis work, and teaching courses in economics. REES researchers trained more than 100 students. Around 15 master's theses were completed in this year. Using funds from other sources, REES hired some students as research assistants.

REES also participated in the capacity building initiative called "EfD collaborative exercises on climate burden sharing". The aim of this initiative was to get students of the Master's Program in Applied Economics (MECA) at Universidad de Los Andes to discuss the emission distribution commitments in the Paris Agreement of 2015. Students were asked how the distribution of emissions should be shared amongst countries. Students then shared their results with other EfD centers.



109 Masters Students on Environmental Economics Courses



15 Masters Theses Completed

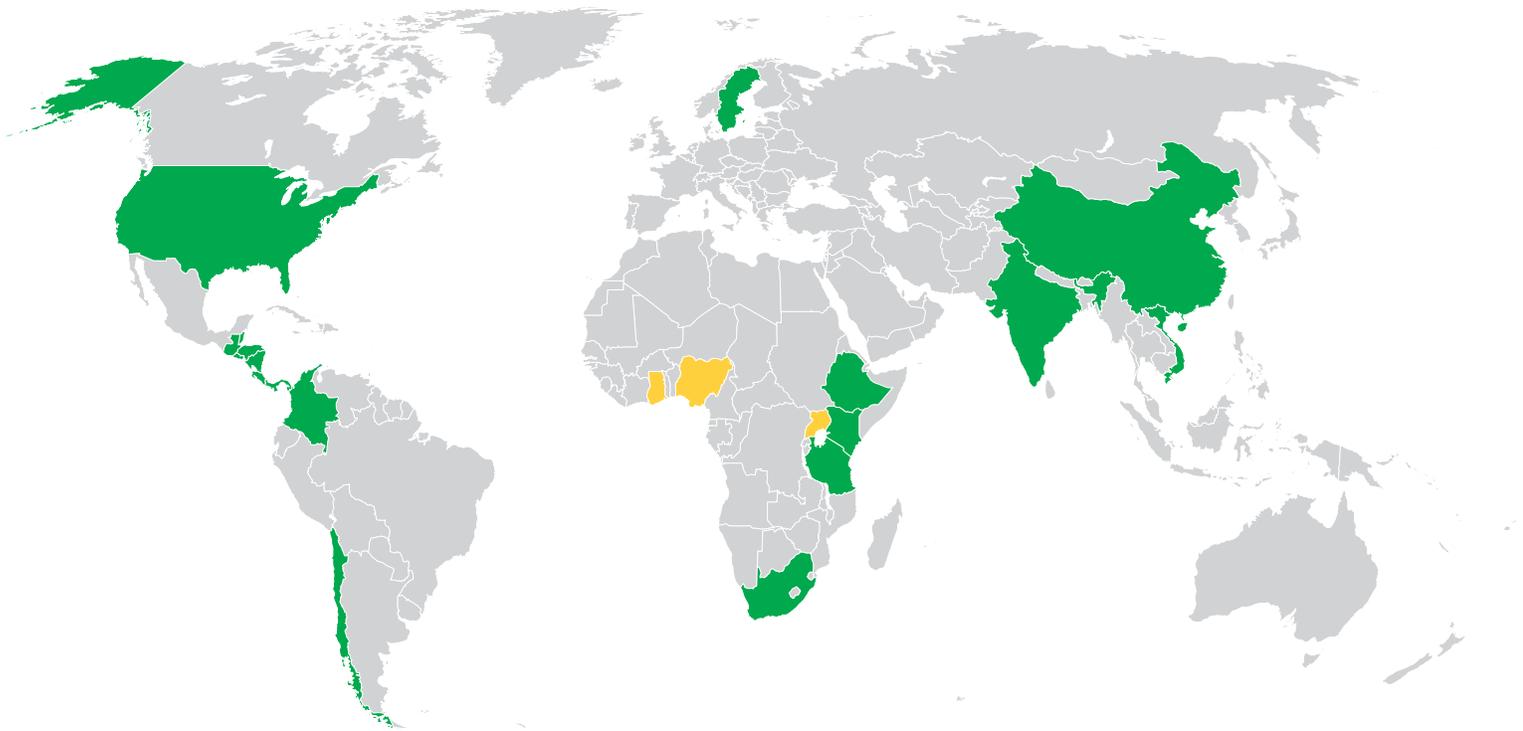
EfD in Colombia

The Research Group on Environment, Natural Resources and Applied Economics Studies (REES)

Universidad de los Andes

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EfD CENTERS

Centers: Central America, Chile, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, South Africa, Sweden, Tanzania, USA, Vietnam

ASPIRING CENTERS

Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda

PARTNER

Sida

