



# COMBIO SERVE

*Assessing the effectiveness of community-based management strategies for biocultural diversity conservation*

## THE CHALLENGE

The past decade has seen the emergence of new conservation governance models that recognise the role of communities and are aimed at preventing and resolving tensions arising from conventional approaches.

These new governance models often entail the transformation of local systems of repartition and use of natural resources and ecosystem services, potentially generating new sources of conflict, which in turn impact community conservation initiatives in ways that require urgent analysis.



## OBJECTIVES

The COMBIO SERVE consortium is conducting a cross-country study to identify and analyse conditions and principles that contribute to the success of community conservation initiatives, and assist civil society organisations in co-enquiry and mutual learning by:

- Analysing existing trajectories and future scenarios of land use and environmental change;
- Examining livelihood dependence on natural resources and ecosystem services, and participants' adaptive capacity;
- Assessing cultural traditions, knowledge systems, and institutional arrangements, including incentives and policies from higher governance scales;
- Identifying drivers, challenges and opportunities for conservation;
- Establishing a dedicated co-enquiry and advocacy approach.

## CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

The COMBIO SERVE consortium is a collaboration between communities, civil society organisations and research institutions operating in four case study areas: Mexico (2), Brazil (1), and Bolivia (1).

The consortium will develop a **toolkit of innovative and diverse** research methods for assessing the effectiveness of community-based management strategies. It will explore the possibilities of co-enquiry, by adapting relevant and applicable research methods and approaches to produce innovative **community-based participatory research protocols**.



## OUTCOMES

COMBIO SERVE will contribute to understanding the effectiveness of community-based conservation by analysing typologies of community conservation initiatives, and by identifying common and specific factors and processes that contribute to their success or failure.

Moreover, the project will:

- Benefit communities, research, policy, and biodiversity conservation outcomes;
- Inform policy-making surrounding community-based resource management;
- Develop a toolkit of methods, mostly participatory, for assessing the effectiveness of community-based biocultural diversity management and conservation strategies;
- Develop replicable community-owned research protocols for adaptation and implementation by collaborating civil society organisations in other local and indigenous communities from the LAC region facing similar challenges.

## PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES

Wherever possible, **community researchers** will help develop and apply a diversity of social and biological research methods. In these cases, data collection and analysis will be carried out in strict collaboration between these researchers, community-based organisations and scientists from the European and Latin American institutions.

These participatory approaches will: (a) ensure that project activities are fully community-owned processes; (b) secure effectiveness and long-term monitoring of community-based conservation initiatives; and (c) promote knowledge transfer.



### Consortium

#### Project Co-Coordinator:

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), Austria

Global Diversity Foundation (GDF), UK

#### Project Partners:

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (ICTA-UAB), Spain

Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM), VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Instituto de Ecología A.C. (INECOL), Mexico

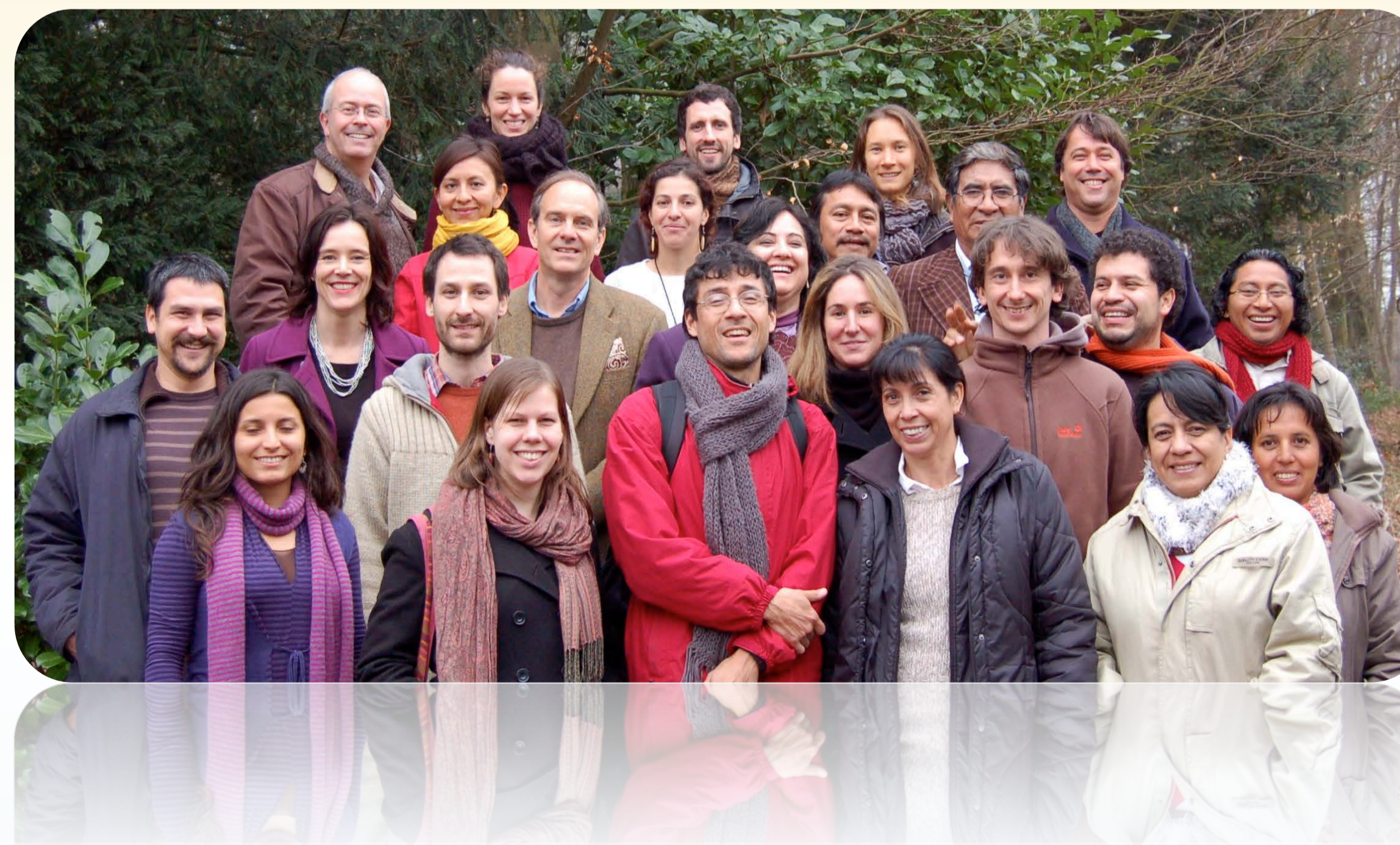
Universidade Estadual de Feira de Santana (UEFS), Brazil

Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS), Bolivia

Consejo Regional Indígena y Popular de X'pujil (CRIPX), Mexico

Associação Nacional de Ação Indigenista (ANAI), Brazil

Centro Boliviano de Desarrollo y de Investigación Socio Integral (CBIDSI), Bolivia



COMBIO SERVE is a collaborative research project between European and Latin American research institutions and civil society organisations that is funded by the European Commission's Framework Programme 7.

For further information, please visit [www.combioserve.org](http://www.combioserve.org)