

# **FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

for the  
**Canada-Latin America and the Caribbean Research  
Exchange Grants (LACREG) Program**  
Project number 103762-001

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By the  
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## I. SYNTHESIS

The Canada-Latin America and the Caribbean Research Exchange Grants (LACREG) program is an initiative funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and managed by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).

The purpose of this program is to strengthen international partnerships and consolidate emerging networks among academic researchers from Canada and Latin America and the Caribbean. More specifically, the objectives of the program are to

- support small collaborative research activities which will contribute to the creation, dissemination and sustained application of knowledge for the development process in at least one of IDRC's areas of thematic priority; and
- help to ensure the sustainability of research linkages, activities and results through explicit commitments from all partner institutions to (i) a plan of action for research collaboration and (ii) the proposed joint research activities.

This program offers a single category of individual travel grants, available to Canadian and Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) academics. The research proposed must fall into at least one of IDRC's three thematic priorities

- **Environment and Natural Resource Management (ENRM):** the ENRM program area focuses on the profound challenges posed by the complex links between human wellbeing and the processes of globalization, development, and natural resource degradation. It supports work that is field-based and offers viable alternatives or improvements to current environmental management and practices. The goal is to provide practical approaches for enhancing food and water security, human health, and the quality of natural resources, as well as increasing democratic participation and equity in both rural and urban settings. ENRM work focuses on:
  - Understanding the social and ecological context of human health and wellbeing and improving communities' health by improving the environment in which people live;
  - Improving the urban poor's food security and nutrition while dealing with urban environmental issues such as waste management and water use; and
  - Identifying means of managing natural resources in ways that reduce vulnerability, enhance assets, and legitimize the rights of all to these resources.
- **Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D):** IDRC has championed specialized programing related to the use of information and networks in applied research since its inception. Its current program addresses how developing countries can benefit from and contribute to the new Information Economy. The ICT4D program area both supports applied research and participates in global networks and processes that provide IDRC with a platform that assists its research partners. Global issues include such topics as Internet governance, intellectual property rights and open source. ICT4D focuses on:
  - The information economy, opportunities, and challenges;
  - The role of women in the information economy; and
  - The role that entrepreneurship and the private sector play within the information economy.
- **Social and Economic Policy (SEP):** The SEP program area focuses on the design and effective implementation of public policies that can reduce poverty and enhance social equity. It aims to effect policy change by strengthening long-term capacities to carry out,

manage and disseminate research; by supporting policy-relevant research and analysis on issues of immediate policy concern; and by assisting researchers and civil society organizations to facilitate public accountability by informing debates on key policy issues. SEP focuses on:

- Understanding the causes and consequences of violent conflict and identifying means of preventing conflict and building the foundations of lasting peace.
- Analyzing the interactions between the rules and institutions of international trade and investment and domestic economic policies, and support for research on means of ensuring pro-poor growth.
- Developing strategies to deliver public services, particularly health, in ways that are more effective, equitable, and financially sustainable.
- Strengthening citizenship and political participation by better understanding the legal and institutional impediments to women's and men's exercise of their rights as citizens.

Research exchanges and travel are for a minimum period of 3 weeks and a maximum of 5 months. Grants cover exclusively:

- travel expenses
- medical insurance and vaccination
- lodging and food (with allowable expenses specified).

The maximum amount of each individual grant is CAD\$6,500. This amount represents a maximum of 66% of the total anticipated project cost. The remaining 34% must be provided by the grant recipients' home and partner institutions.

Applicants are expected to present a plan which describes their broader research collaboration and demonstrate how the proposed activity is strategic support for this plan of action. The research proposal's financial support is on a cost-share basis between the LACREG program (maximum contribution is 66%) and the institution(s) involved, preferably from both the home institution and the partner institution.

Proposals are assessed by the selection committee using the following framework. The refinement and application of this framework is at the discretion of the AUCC, in consultation with the IDRC's Latin American Regional Director and staff of the Special Initiatives Division. The constituent elements of the framework are as follows:

- Strengthening of international research partnerships and consolidation of emerging research networks;
- Relevance of proposed research activity;
- Consistency with IDRC thematic priorities for the region;
- Sustainability; and
- Gender (sensitivity to a gender approach in development research).

In 2007, a total of 53 proposals were submitted to AUCC. The best 22 proposals were selected by the committee. The grant recipients are as follows:

Last name	First name	Partner country or country of origin	Total grant
BOHN	Simone R.	Brazil	5511
COSTA	Evandro	Brazil	6455
COSTEA	Mihai	Mexico	4260
DAY	Angela	Bolivia	4473
DEONANDAN	Kalowatie	Guatemala	6045
FILLION	Myriam	Brazil	6500
FOLKEMA	Josh	Costa Rica	2860
FRANKLIN	Jessica	Brazil	6500
GRECCHI	Rosana	Brazil	4100
GUBER	Rosana	Argentina	4620
HAANSTRA	Anna	Peru	3265
HUNTER	Angela	Brazil	3759
LEMIRE	Melanie	Brazil	5359
LOWENBERGER	Carl	Guatemala	6500
RAUFFLET	Emmanuel	Mexico	5887
ROBINSON	David	Costa Rica	6500
SANCHEZ-GARDUNO	Cecilia	Mexico, Guatemala	2946
SECRETAN	Yves	Mexico	6295
SHEAR	Harvey	Mexico	6120
TREMBLAY	Crystal	Brazil	6500
VANDERZWAAG	Jason	Nicaragua	6500
ZANCHETTA	Margareth	Brazil	6430

## II. RESEARCH PROBLEM

As stated in AUCC/IDRC's contribution agreement, the objectives of the LACREG program are as follows:

- to support small collaborative research activities which will contribute to the creation, dissemination and sustained application of knowledge for the development process in at least one of IDRC's areas of thematic priority; and
- to help to ensure the sustainability of research linkages, activities and results through explicit commitments from all partner institutions to (i) a plan of action for research collaboration and (ii) the proposed joint research activities.

In terms of the specific research problems addressed by each of the grant recipients, they each covered *one or more* of the three priority themes of the IDRC. More specifically,

- 17 of the 22 initiatives fell under ENRM;
- 8 of the 22 initiatives were related to various aspects of SEP; and
- 2 of the 22 initiatives had an ICTD4D component.

In the context of globalization and the internationalization of education, an increasingly high number of Canadian higher education institutions have developed various types of links with counterparts in LAC countries. Up to the mid-1990s, the challenge was to encourage Canadian universities to reach out and establish links with LAC institutions. The situation has since

evolved and for many Canadian institutions, LAC has become a priority. In addition, with the increasing number of transition countries in LAC, joint research becomes even more interesting in terms of potential policy influence and high-level impact.

In the recently concluded fourth phase of the program, LACREG continued to provide small, catalytic funding that proved crucial to ensuring networking opportunities to potential partners for assessing first hand the capacity and interests of their counterparts. As a result, established partnerships have been solidified and new collaborations have emerged. Following the parameters of IDRC's program matrix within the Corporate Strategy and Program Framework 2005-2010, AUCC maintained LACREG's focus on the three program areas initiated in the third phase of the program (ENRM, ICT4D and SEP). These priorities are shared among the strategic research plans of many of our member universities and university colleges.

### **III. RESEARCH FINDINGS - HIGHLIGHTS**

Below is a summary of the main research results as per the grant applicants' reports. The aspects of contribution to knowledge from a scientific and policy perspective are highlighted.

#### Simone R. Bohn – University of Toronto

This project addressed the complex problem of representation of social groups in societies with a highly fragmented class structure. It focused on the representation of women in Brazil and sought to understand whether there is uniformity between the Brazilian women's preferences for public policies and their representatives in both the formal political arena and civil society. In other words, the project goal was to verify whether the bills initiated by women legislators in Brazil and the platform pushed forward by the feminist non-governmental organisations (NGOs) reflect Brazilian women's views, opinions interests and wishes.

The main theme of the project is how class, race and gender segment the Brazilian women in very distinct subgroups and how it is difficult for them to feel represented by actors from the civil society and the formal political arena (legislators).

The research team analyzed the female voter's preferences for public policies using a survey with 1,214 respondents; mapped the content of the bills initiated by Brazilian women legislators (with a view to assessing the congruence between their legislative work and the female voters' preferences); and conducted qualitative interviews with female elected representatives and members of feminist NGOs in order to contrast their interests, preferences and discourses with those of female voters. As a result of being in the field, the researcher also identified the importance of a fourth actor, the Brazilian state's Federal Secretary of Public Policy for Women.

#### Evandro Costa – Instituto de Computação, Universidade Federal de Alagoas

This research collaboration aimed at creating a virtual community environment, particularly focusing on an online community for women in science and engineering. This research has a dual focus: on one hand, the development of information technology tools to improve human interaction in social networks aiming at encouraging and facilitating their participation and contribution; and on the other hand, this research contributes to enhancing the role of women in the information economy.

The results of this research are a better understanding of what incentives can be effective for encouraging participation of women in online communities, a software framework for online communities that applies such incentives, and an active community of women scientists and engineers, interacting and sharing experience and supporting each other. The aim is to increase and sustain the participation of women in science, engineering and technology among students, graduate students, faculty as well as professionals in industry.

#### Mihai Costea – Wilfrid Laurier University

The study has provided both a preliminary inventory of the natural plant products used in México, and an assessment of their sustainability. These preliminary results are the foundation on which more targeted research projects will be pursued in the area. For example, two MSc graduate students at IPN-CIIDIR have already began research projects that stemmed from this project. They both involve the “camote del cerro” which is a plant product largely consumed in the rural and urban settlements in Cienaga de Chapala that belongs to several wild species of *Dioscorea*. One student studies the ethnobotany, societal and sustainability of *Dioscorea* species in the region, and the other one studies the chemical, nutritional and possibilities of domestication of these plants to create of a new plant crop suitable for the local conditions.

The fieldwork allowed Dr. Costea to collect numerous herbarium specimens that have significance beyond the objectives of this project. The researcher believes that at least some of these plants may represent new species, and their description will provide a better understanding of Mexico’s mega-biodiversity and contribute to the global efforts of cataloguing life on Earth. As a director of the WLU herbarium, Dr. Costea will use these collections as a part of the exchanges of specimens with other herbaria from Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

#### Kalowatie Deonandan – University of Saskatchewan

The objective of Kalowatie Deonandan’s research was to investigate the economic, political, social and environmental impact of a Canadian gold mining company in a specific region of Guatemala, and to determine whether it contributes to development and democracy. The researcher also examined whether the conduct of the mine is in accordance with the principles of corporate social responsibility (CSR) as well as the extent to which its activities are congruent with Canada’s foreign policy objectives in the developing world.

The researcher approached the multifaceted issue of mining using a multidisciplinary approach. For example, she states that not only did she need to understand the environmental issues such as the effects of mining on water quality; plant life; agricultural production; human health and the health of animals, she also needed to understand its implications for human rights; economic development and democracy promotion. To this end, the project involved interviewing a number of scholars and practitioners whose research and work were relevant to these themes.

The study was particularly beneficial in that it was able to identify some of the critical problems surrounding the Canadian government’s reliance on voluntary codes of conduct to regulate corporate governance in the extractive sector. Some of these problems relate to lack of oversight, the difficulties of verifying information relating to adherence to CSR codes etc. What accounted for this success was that the research focused on one specific company in one specific country. The researcher was able to spend time in the communities and get a micro-level understanding of the problems. She was then able to conduct more informed interviews

with scholars and government officials in the cities.

The researcher reports that studies of CSR have so far, been at the general or abstract level. By focusing on one case study, she presents a more thorough and detailed understanding of the nature of the problems. She attributes this accomplishment to the extensive field work she was able to conduct with the LACREG program.

Myriam Fillion and Melanie Lemire – Université du Québec a Montréal

The researchers working in the region of Amazonia in collaboration with Brazilian partners and the Tapajos community approached the issue of the presence of high levels of mercury in fish from an integrated approach considering the effects of deforestation and rapid economic development of certain villages on local subsistence activities. They examined social, economic and environmental factors in their research activities. They have, as in the past, integrated their research results in health education practices addressing the specific needs of the rapidly changing community. The researchers reported success from their previous work as community members reported decreased exposure to mercury as a result.

The researchers met with medical doctors in Belem who demonstrated interest in future collaboration as well as the Ministry of education of Itaituba interested in participating in the dissemination of research results. They are also planning, in collaboration with the Centro de Desenvolvimento Sustentavel de l'Universidade de Brasilia, a workshop for representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Minsitry of the Environment to share research results and to engage them in the pursuit of sustainable development for the Amazonian region.

Josh Folkema – York University

The main objective of the project was to analyze how a payment for environmental service program, under the clean development mechanism, related to the sustainable livelihoods framework. This research promotes the importance in western countries and especially Canada in investing into livelihoods that protect and enhance the local environment.

The project documented the success of one project in Costa Rica, so that in the future, NGOs, organizations, and community groups in other countries can implement similar projects that build on the accumulated learning. In order to achieve this objective, Mr. Folkema worked with CoopeAgri to collect information and consolidate it into one database. This provided CoopeAgri with a new tool, a comprehensive database while giving the researcher a view of the overall successes of the program to date.

The results provide western businesses and governments wishing to invest in carbon offsetting with an understanding of more ethical ways to invest into carbon offsetting that support a sustainable livelihood. This research helped to identify the 'best practices' so that NGOs, organizations, businesses, community groups will be able to better implement similar projects in the future.

The project also analyzed the existing relationships between TSC, CoopeAgri, FONOFIFO, and the World Bank identifying strengths and weaknesses Another conclusion of the analysis was identifying the need for a clear community engagement plan.



### Jessica Franklin – McMaster University

The main objective of this research activity was to examine “the capacity of globalization, through increasing linkages between citizens and fostering emancipatory ideologies, to transform and strengthen the political rights, and collective activism of Afro-Brazilian women.”

The researcher learned how the panorama of social mobilization in Brazil has changed because of globalization, not only for black women’s organizations, but for all black focused groups. She was able to achieve this goal by speaking at length with Afro-Brazilian female activists, academics and members of the Afro-Brazilian community in Salvador, Bahia about the changing dynamics and influences of black activism. Through her research she identified how each organization is dealing with different manifestations of racism and will come together as a collective to provide support on key projects. Examples are found in groups focused on quilombos, domestic violence, and AIDS awareness. Of critical importance to this project is the consciousness of these organizations of the similar struggles of marginalized populations at the global level and their incorporation of transnational anti-racist discourses in movement activities, initiatives and campaigns.

The research also examined the powerful impact of increased dialogue between Afro-Brazilian women and women situated in the African diaspora and discourses of human rights and feminism of the identities and activism of Afro-Brazilian women. The most successful result of this linkage has been the Afro-Latin American and Afro-Caribbean women’s network. By engaging in dialogue with Afro-descendent women across the world, Afro-Brazilian female activists have also become involved in the international human rights arena and have contributed to a renewed focus on race and human rights. The research found that their involvement in this arena and use of human rights models has expanded the debate around racism in the national context and encouraged the inclusion of an antiracist perspective in government mandates.

These findings also were critical in efforts to develop focused policies addressing the specific issues of poverty, discrimination and social inequity faced by Afro-Brazilian women. This is a long-term goal of her research project which is still in progress. Recognizing what the common barriers have been, she is now better equipped to prepare comprehensive policy recommendations.

### Rosana Grecchi – Université de Sherbrooke

This partnership project with INPE in Brazil, is part of Rosana Grecchi’s PhD research. The project included collecting field data in the study area of Mato Grosso State, accessing INPE databases; meeting local people and government agencies; collecting auxiliary data and an exchange of experience with researchers at INPE among others.

This project has allowed the researcher to carry out field work and collect the necessary georeferenced field data. This included information about land-use and land cover, agricultural management practices, soils and topography. However she found it particularly successful as a means of contacting a broad range of researchers involved in related research projects in the region. All of them were very open to collaboration. Mato Grosso is a large area with a range of geomorphological, topographical and soil characteristics, in which land change has been occurring on a large scale. All these aspects permitted me to get a clearer understanding of the environmental problems and so to improve my preliminary project proposal. Before going to the field, it was essential to confirm the availability of certain types of data and to have access to

data that was only published locally.

#### Rosana Guber – Centro de Antropología Social – Instituto de Desarrollo Económico y Social

Dr. Rosana Guber's travel to Canada was a particularly beneficial opportunity for networking with Canadian colleagues in Montreal and Halifax. Synergies developed between the researcher and Canadian colleagues with similar interests and complimentary expertise. Dr. Guber's current work focuses on "suicide and the making of Malvinas/Falklands veterans' identity".

Dr. Guber commented on the diversity of the Canadian academic community. In her visit to three academic communities in two Canadian cities, she observed that "these extremely active centres differ in lines of thought and research practices from one another." She had the opportunity to share her research with diverse interested audiences. She also gained valuable information from her interaction with Canadian colleagues who also shared their expertise. The researcher noted the natural interest of Latin Americanists in her research; however she identified the need to sensitize Canadian academics to the value of South American research activities.

Professor Allan Young, hosted Dr. Guber in Montreal and their in-depth discussions oriented Dr. Guber to examine the issue of medical treatment, especially those in mental health, and their link to the State.

The Université du Québec a Montreal invited Dr. Guber to lecture on her findings on the social identity of Malvinas war vets in Argentina, specifically her earlier work on "former soldiers' social identity and the relevance of the Malvinas cause in Argentina." The talk was attended by scholars of anthropology and the social sciences.

In Halifax, Dr. Guber presented "The making of suicide in Malvinas (Falklands) veterans: research notes", a lecture sponsored by the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology (SOSA) and the Spanish Department. She also presented "The Power of Myth, the Power of War. A Century-Long story of British occupation and pending Argentine sovereignty upon the Malvinas Islands", delivered at the Lester Pearson division of the Department of Foreign Policy. The Foreign Policy audience as noted by the researcher was especially appealing since it included two naval officers who had served on the Malvinas Islands and had first-hand information on the Anglo-Argentine conflict. She also commented on the Argentinian movie *Iluminados por el fuego*, on the Malvinas vets, featured in a course on Hispanoamerican Civilization (*Civilización Hispanoamericana*) and presented her paper "Fake veterans and other lies in the field" to the Political Sciences department in a course on Research Design on lying and methodology.

The researcher communicated a more complex view of the continuities and discontinuities of authoritarianism and democracy in Latin America. Her lectures introduced a more nuanced approach to the Malvinas/Falklands war, a largely simplified issue in the Social Science literature. Lumping together her prior research findings, her proposal and participation in a class on methodology, Canadian and foreign scholars and students became acquainted with academic styles of thought and practice that can bring about an interesting North-South and South-South exchange.

#### Ana Haanstra – Dalhousie University

Ana Haanstra's Master of Arts thesis is based on the primary research completed at San

Marcos University. It has informed a broader discussion about the impact of political and economic transitions in Peru on the capacities of civil society to engage with democratic political systems.

Her research on university students at a Southern public university such as UNMSM offered insight into the relationship between the implementation of economic development models, educational quality and emphasis, processes of democratization and the shortcomings of development agendas. Attention to how Northern donors emphasize primary school education and remain absent in the cultivation of intellectual capacities through quality post-secondary education highlight a deficiency of integrated development efforts. Further, the public and non-tuitioned nature of UNMSM is under constant threat as privatization is encouraged through the implementation of neoliberal economic regimes. Through this research she noted that the existence and quality of non-tuitioned public universities in Southern countries provides an indicator of broader economic patterns and development priorities.

A secondary research interest also emerged from her field work, she is examining how the Development industry is employing sex appeal to harness the attention, and charitable support, of Canadian constituents. During her research in Peru, she observed that students noted both their distrust and need of NGO involvement in their country. The perspective of students granted insight into how transparent some development actors are in their commitment to presenting a certain image to Northern donors while not being as mindful to how the 'recipient' population perceives and receives their 'development programming'.

She reports that the LACREG funding contributed substantially to establishing an academic and personal connection between Dalhousie University and San Marcos University in Lima, Peru. Research on the students of the university itself has enabled an organic collaboration and connection between the institutions.

#### Angela Hunter – University of Victoria

The researcher spent her time in Brazil following up on previous research in order to complete a longitudinal timeline of the effects of water and sanitation slum upgrading on active citizenship and quality of life. Consequently, she developed a clear set of recommendations for the establishment of policy for future slum upgrading initiatives.

These objectives were successfully met due to the willingness of the Cidade Julia (formerly Pedra Sobre Pedra) community leaders to participate in the research project. As well, the ability to meet with city officials was essential for understanding the bureaucratic challenges that affect quality of life in the community. These meetings were also an opportunity to present preliminary research results to city officials who work directly with the community.

She attended a conference on social responsibility that was central to making new contacts and learning about other initiatives in São Paulo and elsewhere in Brazil. Specifically, contacts were made with students completing an employment health and safety technical program through the Colegio Rocha Marmo. Two students offered to apply their course work in social responsibility and gain work experience by volunteering as research assistants in the project. The students were a valuable addition to the project because one of them lives in an adjacent community and they were able to provide additional insight and support while conducting the community surveys.

The project was particularly successful in identifying the changing priorities of residents within the Cidade Julia community. This could not have been achieved without the assistance of local community leaders. Another area of success was the ability of the project to support a new community initiative to start a nonprofit day care in the community. Presence of the research project in the community and clear research results indicating the need for a day care are helping the Associação Amor e a Vida to lobby city officials and corporate sponsors for financial support.

#### Emmanuel Raufflet – HEC Montreal

While in Mexico, Raufflet was hosted by the director of the Centli Research Centre in Tlalmanalco, Dr Moctezuma. Raufflet conducted research on the formation of the water management commission in the Chalco-Amecameca. He was assisted by Sylvain Roche, a graduate student from Institut Etudes Politiques Grenoble, France, and exchange student at UAM under supervision of Dr Moctezuma. Sylvain Roche's internship started in February and ended in June 2008.

Raufflet conducted research in collaboration with Moctezuma in Mexico (secondary sources, 14 interviews conducted and 8 conducted under his supervision by Sylvain Roche). Roche completed interviews on two dimensions of the research: (1) the experience of the formation of the Water commission of Valle de Bravo, and (2) research on ODAPAS in Chalco and Iztapaluca (local water management schemes). The interviews were transcribed and the data analyzed. The researchers are submitting two co-authored papers for publication in two international journals: (1) Urbanization and Environment and (2) World Development.

The research in Mexico and Moctezuma's presentations in Montreal contributed to reinforce the links between our research milieus. Marlei Pozzebon, associate professor in Information Technology and director of GRESI (Groupe de recherches en Systèmes d'information), HEC Montreal is collaborating with Moctezuma and Centli on the Information Technology dimensions of the local planning activities conducted in the Sierra Nevada region. Through the presentations at Université de Montreal Raufflet met Dr Patricia Martin, assistant professor in Geography and a Mexico specialist. Last, Felipe de Alba, doctoral student in Faculté d'aménagement Université de Montreal, will do his post-doc as of September 2008 with Emmanuel Raufflet at HEC to conduct research on the urban-rural interface in water management in the South East of Mexico-City.

#### David Robinson – Malaspina University College

The project centers on the idea of community empowerment through changes in the coffee production models and economic diversity through the creation of agro-tourism in the Los Santos region of Costa Rica. The research is aimed at economic diversification through community-owned and -managed eco-tourism initiatives with emphases on agricultural tourism, educational tourism inter-cultural home-stay tourism; moving coffee production in the region beyond the shortcomings of "fair trade" to a "direct trade" mode that creates economic equality and social and environmental well-being for rural farming communities. The researcher from Malaspina University College (MUC) worked closely with local partners the Earth University and the Rainforest Alliance of Costa Rica.

The second phase of this partnership – which constituted the program for which the LACREG grant supported – yielded enormous success. There was the development of a guided hiking/educational trail and corresponding interpretation schedule; supporting direct trade coffee

in Canada by establishing partnerships with activism-based community groups; linking with similar groups in Costa Rica in order to share knowledge and experience through establish educational institutions; establishment of two-way travel between Canada and the communities of Los Santos to support inter-cultural exchanges and understanding; the organising of regional workshops in order to raise community awareness about tourism impacts and for identifying project goals and priorities; and MUC's allocation of three scholarships to Costa Rican community activists in the project and which will be used to maintain a steady flow of knowledge transfer between MUC and the Los Santos community.

The project shed light on the sometimes negative side of economic globalisation as a development issue in Costa Rica. The challenges in that country are primarily associated with disenfranchised and disempowered farmers. The project therefore focused on the profound challenge posed by the globalisation of coffee production and its impact on forest, water and human health degradation, and to promote alternative models of agricultural production.

#### Yves Secretan – INRS

L'équipe canadienne a pu, par le biais de ce voyage, initier l'équipe mexicaine aux logiciels MODELEUR/HYDROSIM et au travail de modélisation par des séminaires et des séances de formation, par un transfert de connaissances et par l'application des connaissances acquises dans un contexte réel de terrain. Les données disponibles au CINVESTAV ont été identifiées et intégrées aux logiciels de modélisation de façon à monter une première version du modèle numérique de terrain de la Bahia de la Ascension, lieu d'étude du doctorant Israel Medina. Ces échanges très dynamiques et constructifs ont notamment été rendus possibles en raison de la disponibilité de l'étudiant au doctorat et des professeurs mexicains. De plus, une première campagne de terrain avait déjà été réalisée dans la Bahia de la Ascension. Les données récoltées lors de cette campagne ont rapidement pu être intégrées aux logiciels. Une bonne connaissance du lieu à l'étude a facilité les échanges.

#### Harvey Shear – University of Toronto

The development of a water quality index (WQI) for Lake Zapotlán has advanced due to the LACREG funding facilitating the travel of Prof. Shear and his graduate student (Tracie Greenberg). Water quality samples were collected at two times of the year (wet season- October, and dry season- February) in collaboration with faculty and staff of U de G (CUSUR) and CIATEJ. These institutions provided logistical support (cars, boats, sampling and analytical equipment) as well as local scientific knowledge that allowed the development and implementation of sample design, sample collection, on site analysis, and data analysis and interpretation.

Their work uncovered data gaps in land uses and pollution derived from those uses; fish and wildlife populations surveys; surveys of habitats. They are still in the process of gathering economic data at a finer scale than those available from the national census. With future funding, they plan to explore human health issues from an epidemiological perspective, and attempt to link human health problems with environmental factors.

In collaboration, they developed a set of research and management priorities based on problems identified through their two research visits, and have discussed these with public officials in Zapotlán el Grande and Gomez Farías. These include quantifying the sewage loading, the input of pollutants from agricultural activities, the source of *E. coli* bacteria (human or animal), the role of "tule" (cattail) in nutrient cycling, and the development of a set of

indicators for the lake and its watershed.

Implementing specific longer term research projects and planning for a series of workshops and meetings with local academics, government officials and citizens to increase background knowledge on social, human health and economic factors affecting watershed management will be contingent on additional funding, but the groundwork has been laid for this through this travel to Mexico.

Shear stated that the meetings with academics and municipal officials were particularly successful. He believes that because they had funding, and could carry out field research and attend meetings with locals, their credibility with the Mexicans was enhanced. He states that they were seen as serious about their commitment to the better understanding of the Lake, and to the sustainable development of the Lake and its watershed. As well, they were able to establish partnerships with another university (ITESO) and will be working with municipal officials on the longer term issues such as the development of a management plan for the watershed.

#### Crystal Tremblay - University of Victoria

The objective of this project was to initiate an exchange between knowledge and practice of integrated waste management strategies, participatory methodologies for community development and multi-media exploration for empowerment and participation. One of the project activities was to document the experiences and perspectives of the recyclers to assist in the evaluation of capacity building for the *Participatory Sustainable Waste Management* (PSWM) project (CIDA-AUCC).

Interviews were conducted with leaders from participating cooperatives to discuss; a) the organization and mobilization of the catadore/as movement, b) their experience within the project highlighting specific events that have empowered or dis-empowered them, c) inclusive public policies and d) community outreach. The analysis of succession of events and processes of the PSWM project (including other projects such as the 'Rede Gerando Renda' project, the organization of the 'National Recyclers Movement' and the creation of an organized micro-credit program) has contributed to greater understanding of the evolution of capacities and in identifying 'target indicators' of personal empowerment, civic engagement and citizenship. The video interviews will be used for the evaluation of the projects capacity building goals and to be integrated into a documentary on the process of participatory video that was conducted April 9-14<sup>th</sup> 2008 with 25 recyclers from participating cooperatives funded by the IDRC of Canada.

#### Jason Vanderzwaag – University of British Columbia

The objectives of the proposed research activities were to train community leaders and health workers as Community Health Promoters (CHP's) capable of educating households on water, health and sanitation issues and the proper use of the BioSand filter to families in the community, to perform follow-up interviews with filter users and additional water testing to determine the effectiveness of any interventions undertaken, and to test the hypothesis that properly trained CHP's are needed to make the BioSand filters a successful intervention for treating water.

Within the three-month project period, the training of Community Health Promoters (CHP's) on filter construction and user education was very successful. Those trained as CHP's were able to build the filters on their own without any guidance after a relatively short time frame. They were also able to better communicate the messages of water, health and sanitation to other members

of the community, including the proper use of the BioSand Filter to those households that were recipients of new filters.

It should also be pointed out that the training activities undertaken and even the researcher's presence in the community triggered greater interest in the BioSand Filters and prompted a number of previous filter users to begin to use their filters again.

#### Margareth Zanchetta – Ryerson University

The goals and objectives related to the research activities were only fully achieved in Araçatuba and Coroados, as data collection was completed in July 2007 and involved 50 community health agents (CHAs) who volunteered as participants, exceeding the initial planned sample of 18 CHAs. Achievements of this project include extensive dissemination of information and two previous research activities developed with CHAs and the local population, as well as solid professional and personal links established between the local research team with CHAs and other health professionals. However, due to the unpredictable and lengthy waiting time for obtaining ethics approval (since September 2007) by the Ministry of Health-National Commission of Ethics in Research (CONEP) in Rio de Janeiro, none of the research activities were launched in this site.

The dialogue between researchers was also sustained by other activities developed in four universities and health institutions: (a) conferences on "Ethics Issues in Qualitative Research: The Canadian view" at the UNIP, Universidade do Estado de São Paulo [UNESP] and Universidade Estácio de Sá [UES] ; a workshop on "Atlas ti: A software for supporting the qualitative analysis" for faculty and graduate students at the UES; meeting with 3 research assistants (RAs) who were professionals from the field of Social Communication (in Araçatuba) to conduct the preliminary findings' analysis, and meeting with 5 RAs who were undergraduate medicine students (in Rio de Janeiro) to reinforce training for data collection and transcription; meeting with health care professionals acting in the Family Health Strategy teams and administration to strengthen and extend collaboration for upcoming years; meetings with academic authorities to plan research and academic activities for 2008-2010 among Ryerson University, University of Toronto [U of T], UNESP and UES. These meetings also led to discussions about seeking funding in international and national agencies, distance education, web-based courses, as well as strategies to increase publications in scholarly journals and other modalities of findings dissemination for local, national and international audiences. As a result of such discussions, the UES investigators created a "Commission of International Contacts".

Areas of particular success include the high rate of participation among the CHAs and the overall support for the fieldwork offered by the local political and professional authorities. People overtly expressed their interest in helping the researchers to succeed, their eagerness to acquire practical knowledge related to Canadian and Brazilian philosophies of health promotion, and their wish to become collaborators in such international work to show how Brazilian CHAs are helping the marginalized population.

The researcher notes the two most important factors that contributed to the success of the project as the significant acceptance and recognition of previous research activities with CHAs as well as the involvement of Prof. Wilson Garcia's and his solid knowledge of the local reality regarding the CHAs' work, his ability to effectively network with political and health authorities, his high social and professional reputation, and his excellent team of collaborators, investigators and RAs.

The summaries of research findings for the following LACREG grant recipients will be submitted under separate cover. The researchers have submitted reports; however, AUCC has requested the information in a suitable electronic format.

Carl Lowenberger – Simon Fraser University  
Cecilia Sanchez-Garduno – Equilibrium Fund  
Angela Day – Dalhousie University

#### IV. FULFILLMENT OF OBJECTIVES

Below is AUCC's assessment of the extent to which the program objectives were fulfilled. This assessment is based on the grant recipients' reports. As a reminder, here are the program's objectives:

**Objective 1)** to support small collaborative research activities which will contribute to the creation, dissemination and sustained application of knowledge for the development process in at least one of IDRC's areas of thematic priority

**Objective 2)** to help to ensure the sustainability of research linkages, activities and results through explicit commitments from all partner institutions to (i) a plan of action for research collaboration and (ii) the proposed joint research activities.

Overall, the 2007 LACREG recipients reported having successfully achieved the specific objectives that they presented in their original applications. The researchers and their Latin American or Canadian partners engaged in a wide range of activities. Teams were generally kept small as fieldwork and other research activities were conducted jointly. Research teams often integrated members of different local organizations or institutions.

The LACREG funding enables researchers to be onsite where they can encourage the application of existing knowledge. Harvey Shear noted that his research team gained credibility by having the funding to do fieldwork and attend meetings with local officials in Mexico. As a result, the researchers will be working with municipal officials on longer term issues such as the development of a management plan for the watershed of Lake Zapotlán.

Several researchers touched on the significant role that community members played in the success of their projects. Importantly, researchers noted the importance of working in collaboration with their partners, communities and local leaders in order to situate their research within the local context as well as to share access to valuable sources of data and information. Myriam Fillion and Melanie Lemire, researchers from the Université du Québec à Montréal, for example, counted on the ongoing participation of community members in their work in Brazil. It was by engaging volunteers who had previously participated in data collection that they were able to determine the usefulness of previous health education interventions. Residents of the Amazonian Tapajos region demonstrated increased awareness of mercury in their environment and reported decreased exposure, an overarching objective of the researchers' work.

Angela Hunter, another LACREG researcher working in Brazil, also noted the importance of building on the long-term relationship existing with the research community and the researcher. She emphasizes that taking a bottom up approach to the research project maximizes the community's participation and ability to utilize the research results to support their initiatives.



Success was also reported for what would fall under the second objective. The research activities undertaken by the LACREG recipients provided the opportunity to assess the potential of new partnerships, to solidify existing collaboration and to develop new affiliations. There were commitments for further plans of action regarding current and future research, which focused on several actors: graduate students, other academics and institutions, civil society and government.

Jessica Franklin also reported an important aspect of her research was the development of relationships with several non-governmental organizations and black women's groups in Brazil, including FASE, Criola and Geledes. This is particularly significant as these organizations have been historically overlooked in discussions of race and gender relations. In addition, she introduced potential opportunities for collaboration with the current research exchange between the Center for Afro-Oriental Studies (CEAO) and the Institute of Globalization and the Human Condition at McMaster University.

Mihai Costea considers that further to successful research results, the most important outcome of this grant was the opportunity to create a new collaborative partnership with the Instituto de Ecología, A.C. - Bajío, Patzcuaro. He explains that this new partnership perhaps has even more future potential than the current collaboration with IPN – CIIDIR, because the institute from Patzcuaro is the strongest botanic research group in Michoacan, and one of the best in Mexico. They have already planned multiple collaboration projects that involve pure research or exchanges of graduate students between their laboratories and institutions.

David Robinson wrote that his project expanded its civil society alliances through collaboration with similar activism-based research projects in the region of Costa Rica. MUC has allocated three scholarships to be awarded to Costa Rican community activists involved in the project. They will be used to maintain a steady flow of knowledge transfer between MUC and the Los Santos community, which will guarantee a greater collaborative element during the next stage of the project.

## **V. PROJECTS OUTPUTS AND DISSEMINATION**

A summary as well as an assessment of project outputs is offered in **Appendix 1** for each of the following 4 categories:

- information sharing and dissemination (reports, publications, conferences, websites, CD-ROMs, etc.);
- knowledge creation (new knowledge embodied in forms other than publications or reports: new technologies, new methodologies, new curricula, new policies, etc.); and
- training (short-term training, internships or fellowships, training seminars and workshops, thesis supervision etc.).
- capacity-building (Institutional reinforcement and sustainability of the research organization, lessons learned, increased research, capacity-building of women or marginalized social groups, etc.)

## **VII. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

### **Daily management of the program**

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) previously reported on the day-to-day management of year 1 of phase 4 of the LACREG program. In year 2, the period from April 2007 to June 30, 2008, tasks included:

- establishing the guidelines, selection criteria and procedures for the 2007 program;
- preparing the information material connected to the program;
- organizing the adjudication processes as appropriate;
- regularly reporting to IDRC on the status of program implementation including names of all applicants, all participants and any difficulties encountered;
- managing all program funds and regular reporting on expenditures of both program and administration budgets; and
- monitoring of the overall program.

More specifically, calls for 2007 LACREG proposals were given the widest distribution possible in Canadian universities through the various AUCC networks, most notably the offices of International Liaison Officers. The guidelines (available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese) were accessible through IDRC's and AUCC's websites. In addition, organizations and groups such as the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (IOHE), the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), the Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS), the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development (CASID) and others were asked to inform their members of the program. The guidelines and the application forms were also disseminated in LAC through the IDRC office in Montevideo, Canadian Embassies, IOHE networks and in response to relevant requests.

Applicants presented a plan which described their broader research collaboration and demonstrated how the proposed activity strategically supports this plan of action. Specific proposals were assessed by the selection committee using the following framework:

- strengthening of international research partnerships and consolidation of emerging research networks;
- relevance of proposed research activity;
- consistency with IDRC thematic priorities for the region;
- sustainability; and
- gender (sensitivity to a gender approach in development research).

AUCC received a total of 53 applications, 15 of which were submitted by LAC researchers. This represents an increase in the number of applications from 44 in 2006 to 53 in 2007 as well as an increase in the number of LAC applicants, from 7 in 2006 to 15 in 2007.

A selection committee reviewed all complete and eligible proposals received by the March 30, 2007 application deadline. The selection committee was composed of three experts including both Canadians and Latin Americans, and a representative of IDRC. More specifically, the committee includes the following members:

Dr. Alain Boutet  
Director  
Office of International Cooperation and Development  
University of Regina  
Administration-Humanities Building, Room 505  
3737 Wascana Parkway  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
CANADA S4S 0A2

Dr. Beatriz Diaz  
Professor, University of Havana  
Director, Cuba Program, Latin American Faculty for Social Sciences (FLACSO)  
FLACSO Cuba  
Edificio "Varona" (altos)  
Universidad de La Habana,  
San Lázaro y L,  
La Habana 10400  
CUBA

Federico S. Burone  
Regional Director  
Office for Latin America and the Caribbean IDRC/CRDI Canada  
Avenida Brasil 2655,  
11300 Montevideo  
URUGUAY

It is important to note that the AUCC staff does not sit on the committee but provides secretarial and administrative support.

In order to bring even greater credibility and rigor to the selection process, AUCC continues to use a normalized standard deviation ranking model in order to produce more defensible selection results under the LACREG program. This is the method which has been implemented in the programs managed by the Partnership Programs division at AUCC and which has proven to be very successful in producing rigorous and defensible results. This method was very well-received by the selection committee members and served to increase the credibility of the process. The Partnership Programs Division has also established a detailed checklist to support the management of the selection process and to ensure that it is as streamlined as possible.

As in the past, the selection committee assessed, from their own location, proposals by merit, based on the selection criteria stated in the guidelines. Given the differences in the overall ranking of proposals, a conference call was required to discuss the divergence and build a consensus to determine the list of winners. The results of the 2007 competition were announced in mid May 2007.

From a total of 53 applications, 22 applications were accepted and funded. See the list below for more details.

<b>Last name</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Partner country or country of origin</b>	<b>Total grant</b>
BOHN	Simone R.	Brazil	5511

COSTA	Evandro	Brazil	6455
COSTEA	Mihai	Mexico	4260
DAY	Angela	Bolivia	4473
DEONANDAN	Kalowatie	Guatemala	6045
FILLION	Myriam	Brazil	6500
FOLKEMA	Josh	Costa Rica	2860
FRANKLIN	Jessica	Brazil	6500
GRECCHI	Rosana	Brazil	4100
GUER	Rosana	Argentina	4620
HAANSTRA	Anna	Peru	3265
HUNTER	Angela	Brazil	3759
LEMIRE	Melanie	Brazil	5359
LOWENBERGER	Carl	Guatemala	6500
RAUFFLET	Emmanuel	Mexico	5887
ROBINSON	David	Costa Rica	6500
SANCHEZ-GARDUNO	Cecilia	Mexico, Guatemala	2946
SECRETAN	Yves	Mexico	6295
SHEAR	Harvey	Mexico	6120
TREMBLAY	Crystal	Brazil	6500
VANDERZWAAG	Jason	Nicaragua	6500
ZANCHETTA	Margareth	Brazil	6430

## Program evaluation

A key activity in 2007 was the review of LACREG in light of the 2006 evaluation of the program by an outside consultant. The purpose of the evaluation was to review LACREG's impact and to propose changes to the program in order to improve selected aspects of substance and process. The most important objective of the evaluation was to assess the nature and durability of partnerships and understanding the factors contributing to successful collaborations. This evaluation included the formulation of changes to improve some of the program processes like candidate selection, monitoring, and reporting. The evaluation also sought to understand the relationship between LACREG and the current broader developmental context.

Throughout 2007, AUCC consulted past and current grant recipients to ensure that any proposed changes would in fact address the needs of the research community. Particular attention was given to consulting LAC grantees and institutions to ensure increased participation and accessibility of the program in the region.

## IX. IMPACT AND OVERALL ASSESSMENT

Given the evolving nature of relations between Canada and LAC, LACREG is playing an important role in strengthening partnerships between higher education institutions from both regions. Strengthening the mutual understanding of key actors in building relationships between Canada and LAC is crucial to enhancing the development of LAC and the integration of LAC based knowledge into Canada's academia and broader society. International partnerships are, and will remain, increasingly indispensable in addressing many critical global issues such as those reflected in IDRC's priority themes.

Based on the reports submitted by the 2007 grant recipients, LACREG has proven to be key in terms of strengthening and maintaining relationships while contributing to research objectives of

Canadian and LAC institutions. However, long-term institutional commitment or larger partnerships have not always been the outcome of LACREG grants. That being said, recipients report that LACREG grants promote results-based partnerships for a broad range of Canadian and LAC researchers and academics, which leads to stronger research and consequently a more significant contribution to development. Given the maximum amount of the LACREG grants to date has been \$6500, the results, namely the joint research, workshops, training, joint publications and the level of creation of knowledge is impressive.

Another impressive result of this program is the enrichment of mutual respect between Canadian and LAC academics. Canadian and LAC researchers recognize the expertise that each partner brings to the partnership and are eager to learn from each other.

Members of the selection committee commented on the challenges related to the identification of a genuine shared research agenda that overcomes personal initiatives at both ends and migrates to an institutional level where it does not rely on the appointed persons at any given time. The purpose is for LACREG to play a role in establishing stable collaborative partnerships between Canada and LAC that would greatly benefit both communities by joining complementary ideas and capabilities. The fifth phase of the program seeks to address this issue by increasing the emphasis on institutional commitment.

Another important barrier is the lack of knowledge and experience on the part of institutions from both regions in terms of how to work together. Comments reported by the grant recipients show that it is important to foster this kind of research program that aims at building bridges between institutions across the Americas and the Caribbean.

Rosana Guber, a LACREG recipient from Argentina, suggests that Canadian institutions and scholars must be aware of the international division of intellectual work. She notes that “usually LAC provides the field and Canada provides theoretical work.” She comments that “furthering comparative research involving Canada and LAC societies, and asking Canadian scholars to include LAC scholarly research are two ways to overcome deep North-South rifts.”

This leads to the conclusion that the LACREG program is well suited to support researchers to begin to address these issues. Gruber further remarks on the potential of Canada-LAC partnerships citing the role of the Canadian-Latin American scholars:

“Latin American scholars who work in Canada are excellent academic brokers between Canadian universities and those in their home countries. Further work must be done in order to broaden and deepen mutual knowledge. Because of their international position, Canadians might be more sensitive to international academic inequality, and get into more cooperative relationships with its Latin American partners. This is particularly important regarding topics such as trauma, violence, war and conflict.”

In addition, researchers reported facing the challenge of the discrepancy that exists between Canadian and LAC research ethics requirements. Margareth Zanchetta from Ryerson University noted that this was the major barrier encountered in her health research in Brazil even though the project had previously been approved by the Ryerson University Research Ethics Board (RU-REB) and the Municipal Health Secretary of Rio de Janeiro- Ethics Commission. In the end, the Ministry of Health-National Commission of Ethics in Research (CONEP) in Rio de Janeiro halted part of the project due to concerns that remained unclear; she believes they were related to the consent form.

Simone Bohn, a York University researcher, echoes a concern with the ethics review process stating that, in order to have good results in conducting research in Latin America, one has to be aware of the informal environment prevalent in most of the countries. In contrast, the ethics review process of most Canadian universities has very strict recommendations when it comes to how to conduct interviews. Adding this extra layer of formality and bureaucracy often causes potential interview candidates to shy away from the opportunity. In part, this is due to the reluctance of people in many countries to sign any type of formalized document. She concludes that when the strict recommendations are followed, the researcher may lose interviews.

Informal comments from grant recipients continue to focus on another key barrier, the capacity of LAC institutions to contribute financially to the program. Many LAC higher education institutions do not have the resources to support their portion of the in-kind contribution. This issue has been addressed by AUCC in consultation with IDRC and the selection committee, for the upcoming phase five, by including non-travel items as eligible contributions by institutions. The focus of the eligible expenses will be to support research activities and the dissemination of results. As this had been identified as a barrier for LAC institutions seeking to apply to the program, it can be expected that there will now be an increase in the number of LAC applicants.

Overall, LACREG is making great strides towards supporting small collaborative research activities that are contributing to the creation, dissemination and sustained application of knowledge for development. Based on grant recipients' reports, the program's success in regards to ensuring the sustainability of research linkages, activities and results through explicit commitments from all partner institutions remains a challenge. However, many of the grant recipients have also identified the efforts they are making within their own institutions to further this objective. Therefore, the ongoing funding of these partnerships over time may also positively impact the number of future institutional commitments.

## **X. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Issues raised by the 2006 evaluation of the LACREG program have also been identified by many of the 2007 grant recipients. In collaboration with IDRC and as a result of ongoing consultations with LACREG recipients, community members as well as Selection Committee members, AUCC has been able to, in the next phase of the program, address the need to increase the maximum grant size, expand outreach activities in LAC as well as augment knowledge sharing activities. AUCC is pleased to successfully conclude phase four of the LACREG program and to undertake phase five which promises to build upon previous LACREG successes.

# Appendix I

## V. Outputs and Dissemination

Recipient	Information sharing and dissemination	Knowledge creation	Training	Capacity-building
Simone Bohn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation at York University's CERLAC-Brazilian Studies Seminar: "Gender, Representation and Elections. The female presence in the Brazilian Senate". September 19, 2007.</li> <li>▪ Denise Paiva's presentation at York University's CERLAC-Brazilian Studies Seminar: "The Worker's Party: Then and Now". November 21, 2007.</li> <li>▪ New grant from CNPq to organise a seminar at Federal University of Goiás (Grant No. 454959/2007-9, CDN\$ 6,001.54)</li> <li>▪ International Seminar at Federal University of Goiás, May 6-7, 2008</li> <li>▪ Presentation in the International Seminar at Federal University of Goiás. Paper "Mulher para presidente? Gênero e política da perspectiva dos eleitores brasileiros" ["A woman for president? Gender and politics from the perspective of the Brazilian voters"]. Dr. Paiva, in turn, presented the work "A Evolução do Sistema Partidário Brasileiro: número de partidos e votação no plano subnacional 1982-2006" ["The evolution of the Brazilian party system: number of parties and votes at the subnational level, 1982-2006].</li> <li>▪ Both articles were accepted for publication at the peer-reviewed Brazilian journal <i>Revista Opinião Pública</i>.</li> <li>▪ Invited presentation at University of São Paulo. Title of the paper presented: "As bases sócio-econômicas da volatilidade eleitoral no Brasil" ["The Socio-Economic Basis of Electoral Volatility in Brazil"] (see attachment)</li> <li>▪ Article published in the peer-reviewed Brazilian Political Science Review (2007) and reprinted in Portuguese in a book (2008). Title in</li> </ul>	.	<p>Continue an ongoing CERLAC-Gender and Politics in Latin America Study Group</p> <p>Sponsor a seminar at York University about the topic of research.</p>	



Recipient	Information sharing and dissemination	Knowledge creation	Training	Capacity-building
	<p>English: "Women and candidate quality in the elections for the Senate. Brazil and the United States in comparative perspective", <i>Brazilian Political Science Review</i>, 1 (2): 74-107, 2007. Title in Portuguese: "Mulheres e qualidade das candidaturas nas eleições para o Senado:Brasil e Estados Unidos em contraste" in Leany Barreiro Lemos (org.). <i>O Senado Federal Brasileiro no Pós-Constituinte</i>, Brasília: Senado Federal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article in Portuguese in co-authorship with Dr. Paiva received a "revise and resubmit" for publication at the peer-reviewed journal <i>Revista de Sociologia e Política</i>. Title: "Sistema Partidário e Volatilidade Eleitoral no Brasil (1982-2006): um estudo sobre a dinâmica inter-regional" ["Party system and electoral volatility in Brazil (1982-2006): a study on the inter-regional dynamics"].</li> <li>Participation in a national competition for funding (of a maximum of CDN\$ 72,018.50 or Brazilian R\$ 120,000 in three years) from CNPq with Dr. Maria do Socorro Braga (UFSCAR), with the project "Abrindo a Caixa de Pandora. O financiamento de campanhas no Brasil" ["Opening the Pandora Box. The funding of electoral campaigns in Brazil"]. Results will be divulged in August, 2008.</li> </ul>			
Evandro Costa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ABEL, F; <u>Bittencourt, Ig Ibert</u> ; HENZE, N. ; KRAUSE, Daniel <u>VASSILEVA, J.</u> A Rule-Based Recommender System for Online Discussion Forums. In: International Conference on Adaptive Hypermedia and Adaptive Web-based Systems, 2008, Hannover. 5th International Conference on Adaptive Hypermedia and Adaptive Web-based Systems, 2008</li> <li>Ig Ibert Bittencourt participated of the</li> </ul>		Evandro, Ig, Julita, and Ralph proposed a tutorial to be presented in 23rd Annual ACM Symposium on Applied Computing, March, 2008, in Brazil. This proposal was concerning the theme Semantic Web Services and Multi-agent Systems, but it was not	

Recipient	Information sharing and dissemination	Knowledge creation	Training	Capacity-building
	<p>International Conference on Adaptive Hypermedia and Adaptive Web-based Systems, 2008, Hannover, and 5th International Conference on Adaptive Hypermedia and Adaptive Web-based Systems, 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evandro Costa and Ig Ibert gave talks in Saskatchewan University in the program of MADMUC and ARIES projects.</li> <li>▪ They organized an interesting workshop in Brazil and three researchers from Saskatchewan University, including Dr. Ralph and Dr. Julita, took part of its program committee. It was the First Brazilian Workshop on Semantic and Education, in São Paulo, Brazil, as part of the Simpósio Brasileiro de Informática na Educação, November, 2007.</li> </ul>		accepted.	
Mihai Costea		<p>The study provided both a preliminary inventory of the natural plant products used in the region, and an assessment of their sustainability.</p> <p>Collected numerous herbarium specimens that have significance beyond the objectives of the proposal. At least some of these plants may represent new species, and their description will provide a better understanding of Mexico's mega-biodiversity and contribute to the global efforts of cataloguing life on Earth. As a director of the WLU herbarium, the</p>		<p>One Canadian MSc student was part of the Canadian research team.</p> <p>Two MSc graduate students at IPN-CIIDIR have already begun research projects that stemmed from this project. They both involve the "camote del cerro" which is a plant product largely consumed in the rural and urban settlements in Cienaga de Chapala that belongs to several wild species of <i>Dioscorea</i>. One student studies the ethnobotany, societal and sustainability of <i>Dioscorea</i> species in the region, and</p>

Recipient	Information sharing and dissemination	Knowledge creation	Training	Capacity-building
		researcher will use these collections as a part of the exchanges of specimens with other herbaria from Canada, the U.S.A, and Mexico.		<p>the other one studies the chemical, nutritional and possibilities of domestication of these plants to create a new plant crop suitable for the local conditions.</p> <p>Graduate students have been directly involved from both sides. Mark Welsh, one of my MSc students accompanied me in the field as a research assistant with financial support from another different grant. Antonio Machuca, the MSc student of Ignacio Garcia Ruiz is currently working on a project that stems directly from our research project: the ethnobotany and sustainable use of <i>Dioscorea</i> species in Central Mexico. Another MSc student associated with a chemist researcher at IPN – CIIDIR, studies the nutritional and chemical composition of the <i>Discorea</i> tubers. Also, it is likely that in fall 2008 Dr. Costea will begin the cosupervision of a PhD student with Eleazar Caranza from Instituto de Ecologia in Patzcuaro.</p>
Kalowatie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two presentations based on this research -</li> </ul>	Mining is a multifaceted		

Recipient	Information sharing and dissemination	Knowledge creation	Training	Capacity-building
Deonandan	<p>one at the University of Saskatchewan's International Week in early February 2008 and the other at a conference in March 2008 sponsored by DFAIT, the Centre for Trade Policy Law, The Canadian Foreign Policy Journal and Carleton University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scheduled to give two more conference papers on this research - one at the University of Saskatchewan's conference in June 2008 on International Governance and Development, and another at the Interdisciplinary Social Science Conference at Monash University in Italy in July 2008.</li> <li>▪ Preparing a manuscript for submission to a peer reviewed journal</li> <li>▪ This research has also been solicited by NGOs in Canada and Guatemala as well as by governmental agencies in Canada such as DFAIT and CIDA.</li> </ul>	<p>issue and hence this research demanded a multidisciplinary approach. For example, not only did the researchers need to understand the environmental issues (such as the effects of mining on water quality, plant life, agricultural production, human health and the health of animals, they also needed to understand its implications for human rights, economic development and democracy promotion. To this end, the project involved interviewing a number of scholars and practitioners whose research and work were relevant to these themes.</p>		
Myriam Fillion And Melanie Lemire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nous comptons retourner sur le terrain pour remettre les résultats aux participantes de façon communautaire. Ce retour sur le terrain impliquerait bien sûr la participation des partenaires ayant participé à ce premier terrain.</li> <li>▪ De plus, nous comptons organiser un workshop à Brasília avec différents acteurs des ministères de la santé et de l'environnement brésiliens en collaboration avec le Dr. Frédéric Mertens du Centro de Desenvolvimento Sustentável de l'Universidade de Brasília.</li> <li>▪ Les connaissances acquises au cours de cette</li> </ul>	<p>Les résultats de nos recherche pourront être intégrés au projet PLUPH (Poor Land Use – Poor Health), un projet interinstitutionnel basé au Brésil. Ce projet a pour objectif de réduire les effets des problèmes émergents qui affectent la santé des populations qui travaillent dans l'agriculture familiale en</p>		<p>Des étudiantes de maîtrise et de doctorat de la USP de Ribeirão Preto ont participé à ce terrain de remise de résultats. Cette expérience leur a été très enrichissante, du fait qu'ils travaillaient avec une base de données existante, et que ce terrain leur a permis d'être en contact direct avec la population étudiée, donc de mieux comprendre les enjeux qu'ils étudient</p>

Recipient	Information sharing and dissemination	Knowledge creation	Training	Capacity-building
	<p>activité serviront à rédiger nos thèses de doctorat. Nous comptons diffuser cette information en écrivant des articles que nous soumettrons à des revues révisées par des pairs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nous comptons aussi partager notre expérience avec le groupe de recherche avec lequel nous travaillons à Montréal en donnant quelques conférences au cours de l'hiver 2008.</li> </ul>	Amazonie, entre autres au niveau de 'exposition au mercure par la consommation de poisson et de la transmission de la maladie de Chagas par des insectes vecteurs.		dans le cadre de leurs recherches.
Josh Folkema		<p>Created database to document the results of an analysis of how a payment for environmental service program under the clean development mechanism related to the sustainable livelihoods framework so that in the future, NGOs, organizations, and community groups in other countries can implement similar projects that build on the accumulated learning in this project.</p> <p>As this project is only one of eight in the world it will greatly improve the research context in the future.</p> <p>Also work with CoopeAgri to build a spatial picture of the project throughout the project area using ArcGIS.</p>		There are two more students from the Faculty of Environmental Studies going to the project area to engage in continual partnership with CoopeAgri and the ongoing project. There is no plan yet to engage LAC graduate students, although staff from CoopeAgri's forestry department could be involved in an exchange visit to view practices in Canada's forestry industry.
Jessica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Joselina da Silva teaches undergraduate</li> </ul>		Have retained contact with	Dr. da Silva and I are

Recipient	Information sharing and dissemination	Knowledge creation	Training	Capacity-building
Franklin	<p>and graduate courses in sociology and is a renowned advocate for black women's rights in Brazil. She used my visit as an opportunity to organize a public educational forum. I was invited to speak about my research on Afro-Brazilian women and to provide a comparison with Jamaican women's experiences. Several students, professors and members of the community attended the presentation and raised a number of thought provoking questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Invited to a class on digital technology and the community and interviewed about my life and work.</li> <li>▪ Opportunity to meet with university students and discuss their views on race and gender relations in Brazil. While many research exchanges and fellowships have been established in larger cities of Brazil, students at the University of Ceara are often overlooked because of their geographic location and limited financial resources.</li> <li>▪ Dr. da Silva and I are working together to build a liaison between McMaster University and the Federal University of Ceara for undergraduate and graduate students interested in the politics of race and gender in the globalizing world. We plan to co-author a paper on feminism, race and politics in Brazil in the near future.</li> <li>▪ Discuss the research and results with fellow researchers of Latin America studies Attendance at the Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies in June 2008.</li> <li>▪ Preparing an article based on the research findings for the compilation of papers entitled "Finding a Place: Latin America in the Transnational Context". This publication by the</li> </ul>		<p>interested graduate students from the CEOO and the Federal University of Ceara.</p> <p>To reach students at McMaster University, continue to discuss and present exchange opportunities with staff and colleagues in the Department of Political Science and the interdisciplinary Globalization Studies program. Particularly interested in expanding research collaboration to involve graduate students at other Canadian universities. I am a member of a Gender and Latin American Studies group at York University which serves as a forum where graduate students and scholars at different stages of their research and from different disciplines can interact and discuss their research projects. Several graduate students of York University and other Canadian educational institutions have expressed interest in future research collaborations with the CEOO and other Brazilian</p>	<p>working together to build a liaison between McMaster University and the Federal University of Ceara for undergraduate and graduate students interested in the politics of race and gender in the globalizing world.</p>

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	<p>University of Guelph should be completed by the end of 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparing specific public policy recommendations from observations, research activities and discussions with members of the Afro-Brazilian community.</li> <li>▪ Send a formal report to several government and non-governmental agencies including the Special Office for the Promotion of Racial Equality (SEPPIR) in Brazil and the Brazilian National Council for Women.</li> <li>▪ The department of Political Science at McMaster University, in collaboration with the Institute of Globalization and the Human Condition organizes a "Research in Progress" seminar. Plan to present at this seminar in the fall of 2008. This presentation will provide an opportunity to discuss the results of research activities and to inform interested students about potential opportunities for research exchanges.</li> <li>▪ Plan to complete a follow-up presentation on recent work with Afro-Brazilian female activists at the Brazilian Studies Seminar at York University's the Center for Research on Latin American and the Caribbean (CERLAC) in the fall of 2008.</li> </ul>		universities.	
Rosana Guber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Publishing article in the <i>Revue Canadienne d'études latino-américaines et caraïbes</i>, a paper on the Malvinas myth to an English-speaking journal.</li> <li>▪ Publishing a doctoral thesis in an English-speaking series.</li> <li>▪ Arrange for the Centre of Social Anthropology at IDES to portray this Canadian-Argentine exchange on its web page.</li> </ul>			

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Anna Haanstra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to present findings at the 2008 Canadian Association for the Study of International Development conference at University of British Columbia in collaboration with two other Canadian students who are studying the relationship of education and political activity.</li> <li>Contribute to broader academic literature and discussions about civil society and democratic practice through conference presentations and potential journal submissions.</li> </ul>			
Angela Hunter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A final draft has been presented to the community association Amor e a Vida to be used to further their efforts to obtain partners and maintain their day care centre.</li> <li>Presented preliminary research results to city officials who work directly with the community.</li> <li>Journal articles and conference presentations: At present one article has been accepted by Urban Design International and is pending publication.</li> <li>Planning a presentation at the next Latin American Research Group workshop at the University of Victoria to share results with other LAC researchers at the university.</li> <li>Results will be shared at the Community-University Partnerships Exposition at the University of Victoria May 4-7.</li> <li>The University of Victoria supports the sharing of experiences through events such as the Latin American Research Group and the Community–University Partnerships expo.</li> </ul>	<p>Completed a longitudinal timeline of the effects of water and sanitation slum upgrading on active citizenship and quality of life.</p> <p>Developed a clear set of recommendations for the establishment of policy for future slum upgrading initiatives.</p> <p>The research was used to support a new community initiative to start a non-profit day care in the community.</p>	<p>Two students offered to apply their course work in social responsibility and to gain work experience by volunteering as research assistants in the project. The students were a valuable addition to the project because one of them lives in an adjacent community and they were able to provide additional insight and support while conducting the community surveys.</p> <p>The student research assistants from Colegio Rocha Marmo helped to identify the potential for partnering with non-research based academic institutions that may be interested in the opportunity for increasing work experience opportunities for students.</p>	<p>Social worker Vera Catani expressed interest in participating in capacity building workshops and helping to facilitate future initiatives in the community.</p>



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Emmanuel Raufflet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Raufflet and colleague Moctezuma are currently working on two papers that will be submitted for publication in international journals: (1) Urbanization and Environment and (2) World Development.</li> <li>▪ Moctezuma conducted three well-attended presentations at three universities in Montreal.</li> </ul>	<p>Documentary analysis of the needs as regards health and Internet Communications Technology (ICT) identified by the programs encountered during the research revealed that there exist concrete possibilities of a network-based work to improve education linked to the transfer and appropriation of knowledge, access by women (who are the majority of education personnel), information on health and access to information itself.</p> <p>The research confirmed the relevance of using ICT and associated games in different contexts both for local development and for health education.</p> <p>The project should more precisely target an appropriate locale as a means, such as Internet café, in order to strive for social inclusion and access to information and, therefore, the transmission of information on health and education.</p>	<p>Raufflet was assisted by Sylvain Roche, a graduate student from Institut Etudes Politiques Grenoble, France, and exchange student at UAM under supervision of Dr Moctezuma. Sylvain Roche's internship started in February and ended in June 2008.</p> <p>Altogether, Raufflet and Roche conducted 14 interviews between February 11 and 29. Raufflet returned to Montreal on March 1 and Roche completed interviews on two dimensions of the research: (1) the experience of the formation of the Water commission of Valle de Bravo, and (2) research on ODAPAS in Chalco and Iztapaluca (local water management schemes).</p>	<p>Felipe de Alba, doctoral student in Faculté d'aménagement Université de Montreal, will do his post-doc as of September 2008 with Emmanuel Raufflet at HEC to conduct research on the urban-rural interface in water management in the South East of Mexico-City.</p>
David Robinson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The results have been published as a case</li> </ul>		As a result of the work in	The project is benefiting by

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	<p>study chapter in an Malaspina University College (MUC) book, in a variety of popular magazines and newspapers as articles, brochure materials and CBC Radio interviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are also plans for international academic research conference presentations and publication in international research journals.</li> </ul>		<p>Los Santos, Costa Rica, MUC has allocated three scholarships to be awarded to Costa Rican community activists involved in the project. The scholarships will be used to maintain a steady flow of knowledge transfer between MUC and the Los Santos community, which will guarantee a greater collaborative element during the next stage of the project.</p>	<p>expanding activism-based research projects in the region.</p> <p>In terms of women, the project has directly supported the important social equity activism roles that women are adopting in their communities.</p>
Cecilia Sanchez-Garduno	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many of the interviewees were well-known to the researcher's partners, some were not, and most were new to the Canadian team. They constitute potential academic and non-academic partners and research networks.</li> </ul>			<p>The project was very successful at integrating the research with other activities in the visited areas in order to multiply the benefits of the international research project.</p>
Harvey Shear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to publish several scientific papers on our results, and a book on Lake Zapotlán, written in easily understood language so that the local population can understand what we have found.</li> <li>Hold a symposium sometime in late 2008 where we will discuss our findings and consider what needs to be done to begin a process of sustainable development.</li> </ul>		<p>Developed a 10 day lecture course / field trip for June / July 2008. CUSUR, ITESO and UNAM are all involved in the design of the course, and will be active participants in the lectures and field work.</p>	
Crystal Tremblay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production of a documentary in collaboration with the Communities-based Research Laboratory (UVic), research partners in Brazil and ekosTV, a multi-media partner in Victoria, BC.</li> </ul>			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disseminated at the CuExpo Conference at the University of Victoria May 4-9th 2008,</li> <li>Other seminars and conferences and through published academic articles.</li> </ul>			
Jason Vanderzwaag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented at the BCWWA conference in Whistler, BC on April 29, 2008.</li> <li>Detailed outcomes of the BioSand Filter evaluation activities have been published as part of Jason Vanderzwaag's thesis entitled: "Use and Performance of BioSand Filters in Posoltega, Nicaragua".</li> </ul>			
Margareth Zanchetta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to disseminate results immediately at the local sites by the production of reports written in plain Portuguese to inform the non-academic audience.</li> <li>Scholarly papers will be submitted to Portuguese and English peer-reviewed journals.</li> <li>Abstracts will be submitted to local, provincial, national and international scientific meetings.</li> <li>Expect to produce a DVD and post the report on the webpage (to be created).</li> </ul>			