COPEH LAC External Evaluation

- Ecohealth Program, IDRC in consultation with IDRC Evaluation Unit
- IDRC Project Number 105151: COPEH-LAC Dissemination and Institutionalization for Research, Outreach and Policy Influence Region: Latin America and the Caribbean

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Executive Summary

This report is an analytical account of the final external evaluation for the IDRC funded project COPEH LAC (Community of Practice in Ecohealth in Latin America and the Caribbean). This evaluation was appointed in December 2012 and it reviews overall achievements (in terms of products and outcomes) of COPEH LAC project's second phase. This evaluation's focus is on how has COPEH LAC contributed to the development of regional knowledge and capacities in EcoHealth and, consequently, how has it contributed to the development, sustainability and evolution of the Ecohealth field. The general purpose of this exercise is to be a summative evaluation. Its aim is to determine the extent to which anticipated outputs and outcomes were produced and, based on this, generate lessons and recommendations for the future.

Methodological Approach:

Based on the evaluation's core questions comprised in the terms of reference, a matrix was developed that included the approach and data collection tools to address each of the core questions. In addition to the review of reports, project products, and other relevant documents, a web-based survey and in-depth interviews were designed and implemented. The universe of COPEH LAC members were invited to respond the survey and a response rate of 42.8 percent was obtained. Fifteen in-depth interviews of key stakeholders were also carried-out. Lastly, an open–ended questionnaire was submitted to non-members of COPEH LAC considered strategic allies.

Main findings:

There was a high level of agreement that COPEH LAC has contributed, either highly or moderately to build regional knowledge and capacity in EcoHealth. COPEH LAC members indicated that they have participated in the institutionalization of EcoHealth in academic activities (pre or postgraduate), or in the development of new curricula that incorporate EcoHealth, subjects, courses or programs where the approach constitutes a key component. Regarding whether COPEH LAC is a recognized stakeholder in the region in the subject of health and environment (understanding that this includes all the components of the EcoHealth approach), a slight majority of members indicated that is so in regard to certain audiences. Key stakeholders also indicated that there have been made contributions to the evolution of EcoHealth through COPEH LAC. This has been done not only through specific products but also through the impulse of richer conceptualizations. For example, this has been done through influence upon theoretical aspects and through the incorporation of issues such as multiculturalism, traditional knowledge, the notion of social justice, complexity, and of action as a part of research. Furthermore, indicating a high level of ownership and possible sustainability of the CoP, a high level of prospective specific activities are proposed, filling gaps within COPEH LAC and for future strengthening of the community, from reaching outside academic circles to working with communities and decision-makers. Building on the processes, achievements and outcomes of phase one (which concentrated on academic factors), phase two of COPEH LAC aimed at going beyond academia and further engage with civil society organizations, grassroots groups and community-based organizations as well as seek policy influence. This progress varies from very limited in some cases to a relative success in others. Regarding the construction of the EcoHealth approach and field outside the academic world, this has come through academic extension activities (with civil society

organizations, with political decision-makers, or through popular education). Policy influence, however, was indicated as a minor consequence of the project thus far.

Conclusions:

In concurrence with the project objectives, the main issue that this evaluation has pursued is an understanding of the degree to which COPEH LAC has contributed to regional knowledge building and capacities in EcoHealth, and the degree to which the community of practice has contributed to make a change in terms of knowledge and capacities in the region. Regarding this, when analyzing this matter through the different methodologies employed for this evaluation, the overall result of the project is satisfactory. A large degree of exchanges has also taken place. Training and capacity building are conceptually included in the implementation of knowledge exchange, as well as internal debates between and among COPEH members. A few alliances have been consolidated with other donors and with regional agencies, as well as particular alliances that some nodes implemented at the national or local levels. COPEH LAC has also contributed greatly to the evolution of the field of EcoHealth in conceptual terms. The community of practice not only has made the field its own but has enriched and advanced the concepts and visions. Despite the successes described above, the evaluation revealed two major gaps within COPEH LAC. The first one is a poor systematization of processes and of learning occurring out of those processes. The second gap, which is related to the first gap, is the lack of a comprehensive knowledge management strategy. The degree of COPEH LAC's likelihood of sustainability in the medium and long term casts a mixed valuation. If the analysis considers the members ownership, nodes' and members' expressed strategies, consolidation and self-perception, as well as internal interactions, the prospects of sustainability are high. However, if resources available and resource mobilization are analyzed, the valuation differs and the prospects of sustainability are not as high.

Recommendations:

- New issues in the region should be incorporated for the community of practice work to be relevant.
- If embarking on projects that seek policy influence, this should be strategically planned with clear policy influence frameworks (theories of change). These frameworks should purposefully identify strategies, processes and indicators that can follow broadly defined policy changes.
- The incorporation of different disciplines in the work of the CoP should be sought.
- Generate and implement a comprehensive knowledge management and communication strategy to disseminate knowledge products and to visibilize products, outcomes, and work.
- The work of the community of practice and of the EcoHealth field would benefit from linking to other related models, frameworks, and analysis that deal with health and environment in integrated manners. This would allow for the concept to be updated and at the same time dialogue other relevant multi and interdisciplinary models.
- Promote exchanges and linkages between and among the different community of practices as well as with other international and regional relevant actors.
- Expose COPEH LAC members to current tools and methods from ethnography and critical pedagogy, which are highly useful for the systematization of processes and knowledge within organizations that seek collective production and sharing of knowledge.

1. Background

This report is an analytical account of the final external evaluation for the IDRC funded project COPEH LAC (Community of Practice in Ecohealth in Latin America and the Caribbean). This evaluation was appointed in December 2012 and it reviews the overall achievements (in terms of products and outcomes) of the COPEH LAC project's second phase.

The Community of Practice in Ecohealth (COPEH) aims at gathering scientists and practitioners from various disciplines and types of institutions (from academia, civil society organizations and governments) with an understanding to promote and use research on social and ecological interactions to bring about lasting change in health and environment. IDRC Project Number 105151 (COPEH-LAC Dissemination and Institutionalization for Research, Outreach and Policy Influence) had a formal start date of August 2009.

The second phase of the project being evaluated has built upon a first phase instance that was also funded by IDRC. In the first phase, the project established a decentralized knowledge community with members from the region. The first phase had as its goal building excellence in Ecohealth research, facilitating communications and networking within the LAC region on research, and linking research to policy and practice. While the second phase aimed at concentrating on institutionalizing the Ecohealth concept in different settings (research, training, policy), COPEH LAC also aims to strengthen the cooperation between scientists and educators from LAC and Canada, and to reinforce research institutions capacities in relation to the ecosystem approach to human health.

The project had a general objective as well as specific objectives, and the evaluation concentrates in finding out to what extent these have been met throughout its life span. The objectives of COPEH LAC phase two were as follows:

General Objective

- To build an active and effective COPEH that is strengthening Ecohealth research and interventions throughout Latin America and the Caribbean in order to help bring about lasting changes in health and environment.

Specific Objectives

- To consolidate COPEH performance through strengthening and dissemination of Ecohealth research, intervention, and policy-linking activities within and among regional nodes;

- To extend the community and its sustainability through the continued development and dissemination of concepts, tools, and methods for Ecohealth research and thematic activities;

- To increase the impact of the community as a research agenda setting and source of Ecohealth research information in the region;

- To better understand COPEH's internal functioning and outreach, particularly within institutions and with policy-makers, using a methodologically sound evaluation process that assesses COPEH-LAC's sustainability and provides continuous feedback; and,

- To systematize resource mobilization in order to ensure the sustainability of COPEH-LAC.

Scope and main characteristics of the external evaluation

This evaluation's focus is on how has COPEH LAC contributed to the development of regional knowledge and capacities in Ecohealth and, consequently, how has it contributed to the development, sustainability and evolution of the Ecohealth field. The general purpose of this exercise is to be a summative evaluation since it takes place at the project's conclusion and final stages. Its aim is to determine the extent to which anticipated outputs and outcomes were produced and, based on this, generate lessons and recommendations for the future.

The insights and recommendations aim at contributing to the strengthening and sustainability of COPEH LAC and its contribution to the field of Ecohealth and to provide valuable knowledge for COPEH LAC and for IDRC based both on the positive achievements, generated products and outcomes as well as existing weakness. It is intended, therefore, that the findings would build capacity not only for COPEH LAC and IDRC, but for the Ecohealth field as a whole.

However, it must be clear that learning and capacity building aims are built into this exercise, this evaluation is not to be used to make decision about future funding from IDRC. This is due to the fact that COPEH LAC's second phase is the final funding stage by IDRC for the community of practice.

IDRC, as funding agency of COPEH LAC, is responsible for the external evaluation, and has –therefore—commissioned the external review. The characteristics of the evaluation, however, were set in agreement with COPEH LAC. The main characteristics and specific evaluation questions issues addressed agreed upon are:

a) Analysis of COPEH LAC performance based on the achievement of its strategic objectives, with a core emphasis on developing regional knowledge and capacities in Ecohealth (see diagram 1 in Annexes).

b) Analysis of the internal dynamics and sustainability of the community of practice based on the inputs provided by COPEH LAC social network analysis. The external evaluation will verify the results of the social network analysis and deepen the analysis of its strength and sustainability.

c) Analysis of the progress in promoting the Ecohealth approach in the region and of COPEH LAC external reach: how COPEH LAC has contributed to position the EcoHealth approach in the region and the level of recognition as a relevant player in the field of health and environment among key audiences in LAC.

d) Based on the previous three themes, an analysis of the relevance and contributions in the development, sustainability and evolution of the field of EcoHealth in LAC.

Core evaluation questions

Based on the themes of the evaluation, the following core evaluation questions guided the evaluation contents and process. These were used as conceptual guidelines, and were operationalized as the questions developed in the various instruments used (questionnaires for interviews and for survey). The questions were:

a) To what degree has COPEH LAC contributed to build regional knowledge and capacities in EcoHealth?

b) To what degree has COPEH LAC institutionalized the EcoHealth approach and therefore contributed to the sustainability of the field?

c) How and to what extent has COPEH LAC contributed to the evolution of the EcoHealth field?

d) To what extent has COPEH LAC become more sustainable?

e) What progress has been made in promoting the approach among academic, social, policy and donor audiences and how successful was COPEH LAC in partnering or reaching key regional or international players and agencies both for its own and for the EcoHealth field sustainability?

f) What issues should COPEH LAC consider for its strengthening and sustainability in the region?

g) What issues should the EcoHealth program consider for building and consolidating the field of EcoHealth in Latin America and the Caribbean?

Users and Uses of the external evaluation

The independent external evaluation foresees several primary intended users: the Ecohealth program team and the evaluation sector at IDRC as well as COPEH LAC itself. The use of the external evaluation for these stakeholders is to provide lessons learned and significant visions based on the analysis carried out. This will be done detailing products obtained, outcomes generated as well as weaknesses and challenges.

In addition, it is foreseen that other COPEHs from other regions might be interested in drawing lessons learned and information from this evaluation as to provide inputs to their work and consolidation.

Values and principles guiding the evaluation process

This evaluation exercise has as its core values and principles recognized standards for this sort of process and assessment. It is, first of all, this is an independent external evaluation and the

evaluators are free of conflict of interests given that neither belongs to COPEH LAC nor IDRC, and carried out ethically since the evaluation does not represent personal nor sectoral interests. Transparency has been value and guiding principle, involving full disclosure to stakeholders of the evaluation's process and purpose, promoting accordingly credibility not only in the analytical assessment *per se* but also to the process.

The evaluation has been as impartial as feasibly possible, removing biases and maximizing objectivity. The evaluators have strived to provide the highest quality standards possible for this assessment. Lastly, timeliness has been a principle weaved into the evaluation, given that there has been an effort from all involved to design, implement, and complete the evaluation in a timely manner in order to assure and promote the usefulness of the findings and the recommendations.

2. Methodology

To develop the methodology, the evaluators followed these steps:

2.1 Developing a matrix:

Based on the core questions for the evaluation that were included in the terms of reference, the evaluators developed a 7x3 matrix that included the approach and data collection tools to address each of the seven core questions. The full matrix is included in the annex section. From the matrix, the evaluators decided that to address the core questions, in addition to the review of reports, project products, and other relevant documents, it was necessary to develop and implement a survey and in-depth interviews.

2.2 Developing a web-based survey:

Considering resources and time available, the evaluators decided to develop a web-based survey. This methodology was preferred because it can produce more generalized information from the respondents. The questionnaire is included in the annex section.

A total of 133 individuals (representing the universe of COPEH LAC members) were contacted and invited to respond the survey. The survey was on-line for 28 days. At the end of the period, 57 individuals completed the survey. The response rate is considered very good for this sort of instrument (i.e. web-based surveys) as well as taking into account other correlated factors (such as the audience, the members' level of involvement in COPEH LAC, and temporality). It is considered substantially higher than average given that response rates for online surveys tend to be about 30 percent, while the response rate for this particular survey has been 42.8 percent.

2.3 Developing an interview guide:

To complement the web-based survey, the evaluators developed an interview guide that addressed perceptions and opinions about achievements, challenges, gaps and aspects that would strengthen COPEH-LAC. Fifteen in-depth interviews were carried-out by the evaluators. Twelve interviews were face to face and three were phone interviews. Representatives from the coordination team and each one of the regional nodes were recruited for the interviews. The evaluators carried out in depth interviews of members of the Southern Cone Node (1 interview), Brazil Node (3 interviews), Andean Node (5 interviews) Mexico Node (1 interview) Central America Node (2 interviews) CINBIOSE/Canada Node (2 interviews). A copy of the interview guide is included in the annex. Also, one in-depth interview was carried out with an informant who, while not a member of COPEH LAC, has been part of projects with the Andean Node, and therefore has been considered a strategic ally of the CoP.

2.4 Developing a survey for COPEH LAC strategic allies

An open – ended questionnaire was developed for non-members of COPEH LAC that are considered strategic allies. This questionnaire was e-mailed to strategic allies as identified by the Andean, Brazil, and Southern Cone nodes. The purpose of this exercise was to evaluate the node's

strategic alliances as well as sustainability prospects with these actors. Nine questionnaires were mailed and responses were received from seven of them, indicating a 77.7 percent response rate.

2.5 Validating the matrix and data collection tools:

Drafts of both the matrix and data collection tools (survey and in-depth interview) were shared with the IDRC official in charge of the evaluation. Inputs and comments were received and the matrix and data collection tools were adjusted accordingly.

2.6 Strength and Limitations:

In order to maintain privacy, and therefore elicit candid responses, the web-based surveys were anonymous. Therefore, affiliation of the respondents is not known. Hence, the web-based survey (and therefore the responses) does not include that information. However, during the in-depth interviews, it became clear that there was a variation in respondents' opinions in relation to whether they had an academic, civil society or decision-maker background. The analysis of the in-depth interviews took into account such differences. In addition, a distribution of membership by affiliation (academic, civil society and decision-maker) at global and regional nodes was established to aid the analysis and interpretation of collected data. Because of the above, some inferences about the type of membership and type of opinions of respondents can be made for the in-depth interviews but not for the web-based survey.

In relation to ethics and protection of key informants, the web-based survey was anonymous and the responses obtained through the interviews do not identify respondent's name.

3. Evaluation Findings

3.1 General findings

Before presenting the findings related to each one of the 7 core questions, two specific findings will be presented that affect the results in each one of the core questions.

3.1.1 Degree of heterogeneity within COPEH-LAC

Through the information gathered from reports and interview of key informants, it is understood that COPEH-LAC started as a network of academics/researchers (phase I) and later, in a second phase, the CoP was expanded to include civil society member and decision-makers, and to seek policy influence. The membership list obtained during the evaluation revealed the following distribution of affiliation by members:

COPEH LAC Membership	
Total 142	
Academics (110)	77.4%
Civil Society (26)	18.3%
Decision makers (6)	4.2%

From the above table, it is clear that the membership is mostly made-up by academics/researchers. About one quarter of all members are civil society or decision-makers. The evaluators were initially expecting that the distribution of the general membership above would also be reflected within each of the regional nodes. However, the analysis of the membership by nodes revealed a highly differentiated distribution of membership. These distributions are presented in the table below:

<table>
<tr><td>CENTRAL AMERICA NODE
Total 54
Academics (44) 81.4%
Civil Society (7) 12.9%
Decision makers (3) 5.5%</td><td>ANDEAN NODE
Total 29
Academics (13) 44.8 %
Civil Society (15) 51.7%
Decision makers (1) 3.4%</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">SOUTHERN CONE NODE
Total 17
Academics (11) 64.7%
Civil Society (4) 23.5%
Decision makers (2) 11.8%</td><td>BRAZIL NODE: 100% Academics</td></tr>
<tr><td>CINBIOSE CANADA NODE: 100% Academics</td></tr>
<tr><td>MEXICO NODE: 100% Academics</td></tr>
</table>

Communities of Practice (CoP) are relational spaces in which members have common interests. Because of the interactions among members (through work, social activities, etc.,) and shared interest, CoPs tend to be highly homogenous. Hence, it was surprising to the evaluators

identifying that this is not the case with COPEH LAC. From the interview with key actors, it became clear that the organizational model through decentralized nodes enabled a relevant degree of heterogeneous membership. Nodes led by civil society organization recruited members from similar backgrounds and the same occurred with nodes led by academics/researchers.

Having an active CoP with the characteristics described above (heterogeneous and decentralized nodes) is a situation that deserves to properly be documented and systematized to contribute to the international learning about CoP. However, this endeavour becomes a challenge if the systematic documentation is not in place. This situation is described below.

3.1.2 Poor systematization of the CoP work:

For any CoP, the systematization of the shared knowledge and exchange among its members is crucial. This includes not only the account on activities, outputs and outcomes, but also on the different processes being implemented. In addition, CoPs are relational spaces which have a very important role for its members. These relations may not lead to concrete outputs or outcomes; however, they are the core of any CoP. Such relations are best documented as processes and for that there are many different tools and techniques that can be used (i.e. tools from ethnography, strategic planning and others).

During the evaluation, it was identified that the systematization within COPEH LAC has been limited mostly to reporting activities and outputs. In addition, the reporting and systematization has not been consistent. For instance, every one of the yearly reports has different reporting tables and every node had a different level of depth and details in their reports. It is only the report for the third year that a matrix is used and all nodes reported using such matrix. However, the matrix mostly collects activities and outputs. Outcome reporting is comparatively much weaker. During the in-depth interviews, the evaluators noted that very important processes have been implemented by different nodes[1]. Unfortunately, most of these processes have not been systematized; neither reported (annual reports or others).

[1] Such as strategies and processes implemented to engage with community organization, marginalized population, decision-makers, workers' unions and others.

Because of the lack of systematization on processes, the reports available give the idea that COPEH LAC is an academic network since there is an emphasis on academic publications and training courses/modules within higher education institutions. All those processes related to community engagement and public policies, which are central to the Ecohealth approach, appear as minor or less relevant activities. From our interviews with the key members of COPEH LAC the evaluators learned that some nodes have done important work related to diverse implementation strategies and processes. That work deserves to be systematized. The section on recommendations gives specific suggestion to carry out such work.

The two specific findings discussed above have an influence in the possibility to evaluate each of the core questions set for this evaluation. In some situations due to lack of documentation, the evaluators relied on the opinions of key informants obtained through in-depth interviews. Also, the evaluators identified that among all key informants interviewed, opinions related to what is success, gaps and expectations for the future of COPEH- LAC, differ among those coming from different backgrounds (academia, civil society and decision-makers). Specific examples and opinions related to the issue above are described below in the assessment of each core question.

Documenting and expanding key outputs and outcomes: Clearly, the major output of COPEH-LAC is the high number of publications. This output, although important, it was expected since the majority of members come from academia. There were other key outputs and outcomes that although not present in all the nodes, are of relevance due to the nature of the actors involved, the processes implemented and the influence upon key actors. For instance, in the Andean node, key outcomes were achieved through the engagement with people working in solid waste recycling, in a participatory-action research process (see box *Bringing together COPEH LAC with community-based groups for practical actions*). In the Southern cone, they interacted with trade union through informative and capacity-building workshops. These types of outputs and outcomes are major achievements because they require a trusting relationship between the different actors involved and the implementation of activities and processes that are out of the control of the researchers and often subject to external factors. These challenging situations make outcomes less predictable and success is less frequent than implementing organizations would expect. Because of that, whenever there are positive outcomes of that nature, they should be adequately documented to generate knowledge on successful strategies, the role of context and the type of leadership being implemented. Unfortunately, the documentation of those outcomes, and other processes, is very limited within the CoP. The evaluators encourage COPEH-LAC to give priority to apply different strategies and tools to document process outputs and outcomes.

3.2 Assessment of core questions

3.2.1 To which degree has COPEH LAC contributed to build regional knowledge and capacities in EcoHealth?

In the web-based survey, there was a high level of agreement that COPEH LAC has contributed, either highly or moderately to build regional knowledge and capacity in EcoHealth. Forty six percent of respondents indicate that COPEH LAC has contributed a great deal in building regional knowledge and capacity, while forty-five percent indicate that COPEH LAC has contributed moderately. Only seven percent of respondents consider that the community of practice has not contributed at all.

Regarding how this took place, that is how COPEH LAC contributed to the generation of regional knowledge and capacities, the members indicate mostly (forty-eight percent) that this was done through exchanges among the members. The second most important process for this, according to the members of the community of practice themselves, has been through training (according to forty percent of the respondents). Academic production is categorized as the least important of the choices for capacity building and knowledge generation, with only twelve percent of the respondents indicating this has been a contributing factor. The high response (of nearly half of those who answered the survey) regarding exchanges of collaboration between the members in different activities, is highly indicative that this aspect is one of the most important ones for COPEH LAC. The members provide insight about what sort of exchanges or in what sort of events they had exchanges by mainly mentioning workshops, seminars, and meetings. Research projects and academic production is indicated less than the exchanges as contributions. Lastly, some members made it clear that COPEH LAC in and of itself did not generate knowledge, but that it has fostered knowledge transfer and exchanges.

Albeit product generation is not the final objective of a project, the products themselves are partial indicators of processes and outcomes. Regarding this members were asked about the publication of articles or reports in the EcoHealth field since their participation in COPEH LAC. This analysis must be weighed by the fact that the products (articles, reports, presentation to congresses/meetings) are not generally the work of the community of practice but of the individual researchers, experts and stakeholders. Although a few products are products of COPEH LAC, the great majority are members' individual or collaborative products.

Twenty percent of respondents indicated that they have not published any articles or reports in the EcoHealth field since they have been participating in COPEH LAC, while half of the members responding the survey indicated that they have published between one and four products. Nine percent have published between five and ten products and five percent have published more than ten.

It is also thought-provoking to note which nodes have more academic and publication activities. Some nodes, the more academic ones evidently anchored in universities, have the greatest numbers of publications by far. There is an assortment of publication venues, such as academic publications, publications in congresses registers, as well as more dissemination

oriented products when working in non-academic settings. Also, some degree of cooperation between members and even between nodes is apparent in the publications. Regarding applying the EcoHealth approach in the articles, a large number of them do, however many are presented as EcoHealth articles yet are missing some components. Several articles reported deal, for example, with strictly ecological issues, not dealing with human health for instance. However, as it is also pointed out by several of the community of practice members, the products do not necessarily invoke the approach, but do contain the integrated components that make – up EcoHealth.

Since the in-depth interviews included key informants from each of the different nodes, is possible to identify how each node see their contribution to build regional knowledge and capacities in Ecohealth. For instance, the Brazilian node sees their contributions, mainly, as the training of young professionals/researchers through postgraduate courses. The Southern Cone node sees their contribution the fact that universities are engaged with workers' union in terms of health education, environment and gender. In the Mexico node, they refer to the training courses at the university that reach public officials. Finally, the Andean node sees as their contribution, the approach to implement participatory research with community organizations and engaging with civil society actors.

3.2.2 To which degree has COPEH LAC institutionalized the EcoHealth approach and therefore contributed to the sustainability of the field of EcoHealth?

In the web-based survey, when members were asked if they participated in the institutionalization of EcoHealth in academic activities (pre or postgraduate, or in the development of new curricula that incorporate EcoHealth, subjects, courses or programs where the approach constitutes a key component), two – thirds of the respondents indicated that they have. This is indicative given that, at least within the survey respondents, one – third has not been active in the institutionalization of the approach through academic and training activities.

Regarding whether COPEH LAC is a recognized stakeholder in the region in the subject of health and environment (understanding that this includes all the components of the EcoHealth approach), approximately one-half of the respondents indicated that is so in regard to certain audiences (fifty-three percent). Thirty six percent of the respondents have indicated that the community of practice is a fully recognized actor in the field, yet about twelve percent indicated that COPEH LAC has a limited external projection.

During the in-depth interview with key informants, most of respondents provided examples that would suggest a process towards institutionalization. However, this varies among the different nodes. Also, respondents commented about the challenges and limitation to achieve institutionalization. One respondent said: "Although we have achieved some level of institutionalization, this is still fragile due the change of counterparts in the different institutions and shifts in institutional policies". Other respondents referred to the situation that although there have been possibilities to teach some lectures and seminars within existing university courses, institutionalizing an EcoHealth course has not been possible due to the curricular

structure of universities: “the university course system is not oriented to interdisciplinary courses, there are no mechanisms to integrate different disciplines within a postgraduate education”. Although COPEH LAC’s final report includes a listing of a large number of courses and teaching instances in different modalities, it is difficult to assess the degree of institutionalization and sustainability.

3.2.3 How and to what extent is COPEH LAC contributing to the evolution of the field of EcoHealth?

This question was explored through the in-depth interviews. Most respondents described specific contributions of their node to the evolution of EcoHealth. For some nodes, the contribution was the different scientific papers being produced and published. For other nodes, their contributions were related to conceptual reflections and practical approaches for field implementation. For instance, the Southern Cone informants expressed that their contribution includes applying the EcoHealth approach in urban settings. Also a literature review about how equity and gender have been addressed in the different EcoHealth related publications. The node also raised the issue of how to communicate with different audiences and how to value the knowledge of communities. One of the respondents stated: “Previously, there was an emphasis on academic communication. We raised the issue of communicating with civil society organizations. We also made explicit the importance of the knowledge that communities and workers have about EcoHealth issues”.

Respondents from the Andean node consider that their contributions have been influencing the theoretical discussions and reflections within EcoHealth around multiculturalism, the notion of social justice, complexity and complex thinking, and the idea that action should also be part of the research component. Other important contribution was the implementation of participatory-action research within EcoHealth. Several of the key informants also consider that incorporating the tradition and knowledge of social medicine to the EcoHealth approach has been an important contribution of COPEH-LAC (particularly the Andean node) to the field of EcoHealth.

3.2.4 To what extent has COPEH LAC become more sustainable?

An indicator of members' engagement with COPEH LAC is their vision for sustainability as illustrated by suggestions for future activities and strengthening notions. Either in open ended or in multiple response questions/answers to the survey, members who responded indicated a variety of elections for prospect specific activities, for filling gaps within COPEH LAC, and for future strengthening of the community. Responses go from promoting more academic and training issues, indicating that in the future the approach should be institutionalized in formal education programs and research, to other responses that promote either organizational or extension issues. For example, it was repeatedly suggested that linkages between practitioners should be continued, strengthened and even focused on particular issues. Also, many respondents indicated that the strength and sustainability would

Bringing together COPEH LAC with community-based groups for practical actions. Improving research, upgrading knowledge, and promoting action in integrated in health and environment issues, that take into account not only human health and ecological factors but also socio-economic issues in a participative manner, is a core objective of the EcoHealth approach. One of the aims of COPEH LAC has been the assimilation of integrated understanding of EcoHealth with practical actions. A key example of this is the effort has been the work of the Andean Node that brought together the CoP with community-based groups. Alhough the project was supported by IDRC (not through COPEH LAC), the approach and outcomes have been increasingly understood and incorporated as part of the social and knowledge capital of COPEH LAC. This effort, taking the approach of action research, has dealt with the working conditions, environment and health of waste recyclers and their families in Lima, Peru. The health and environment link of informal workers, such as waste recyclers, is one of the subjects that the Node has worked on. Given background in occupational health of several stakeholders involved in the Node, this project was approached with an EcoHealth method, given the integration of human health, environment, social, economic aspects in a participatory manner. Addressing these complexities, the Node worked in a participatory manner with informal workers in the waste recycling sector. The project has combined the generation of knowledge with other processes and outcomes. This has been done through participatory research, capacity building (not only of the researchers themselves but also within the workers' groups), researched and generated technological innovations to improve health factors of the waste recycling workers, and has encouraged policy debates on the issues of health and workers' safety in the informal sector. The participatory method used is also an achievement in terms of process. Given that the EcoHealth approach promotes participation as a method and as a principle, this project has fully integrated community involvement into the project. By all accounts (researchers' as well as those from community leaders) indicate that this approach was key to the project's success as well for the "generation of trust" between the CoP members and the workers. Furthermore, this participatory process has helped in moving forth toward policy arenas and to other projects that not only support continuity and ownership but also sustainability of the work carried out between COPEH LAC and the community.

come from reaching outside academic circles and working with communities and decision-makers.

During the in-depth interviews, all respondents saw as positive the organizational structure of COPEH LAC through decentralized nodes. Several respondents considered that such structure gave flexibility and promoted a regional identity within nodes. Some nodes have mobilized local resources to implement activities. Because of these different issues, it appears that the nodes have developed the potential to become sustainable through different strategies. The global structure of COPEH LAC, nonetheless, seems more difficult to be sustainable. One of the respondents expressed this situation in the following way: "inside the nodes, members have common projects, work spaces and other interests. It seems to me this collaboration among members will still continue even if COPEH LAC as such does not exist anymore".

3.2.5 What progress was made in promoting the approach among academic, social, policy and donor audiences and how successful was COPEH LAC in partnering or reaching key regional or international players and agencies both for its own and for the EcoHealth field sustainability?

As indicated previously, COPEH LAC's phase two aims at gathering scientists and practitioners from various disciplines and types of institutions (from academia, civil society organizations and governments) with an understanding to promote and use research on social and ecological interactions to bring about lasting change in health and environment. Building on the processes, achievements and outcomes of phase one (which concentrated on academic factors), phase two aimed at going beyond academia and engage with civil society organizations, grassroots groups and community-based organizations as well as seek policy influence.

In the opinion of web-based survey respondents, this progress varies from very limited to a relative success. Respondents also indicated the different activities that were employed in this area. Regarding the construction of the EcoHealth approach and field outside the academic world, most respondents feel that this came about through academic extension activities (with civil society organizations, with political decision-makers, or through popular education). Three-fourths of respondents indicated that this is the manner in which COPEH LAC mostly outreached beyond academic circles. Policy influence was indicated as an outcome by fourteen percent of respondents. However, eleven percent of those who answered the survey indicated that COPEH LAC did not contribute to build the EcoHealth field outside of academia.

Through the in-depth interviews, it became clear that the opinions about how successful has COPEH LAC been in reaching other actors than academia varies among respondents. Some respondents with an academic background thought that there has been an important progress in reaching civil society and some decision-makers (particularly in the Andean and Southern Cone nodes). They also stated that such progress is very relevant when compared with what was achieved during the phase I of COPEH LAC. Other respondents from civil society and decision-makers background rated as poor the overall progress towards reaching non-academic actors. One respondent expressed it like this: "In general we have very few community leaders and decision-

makers involved because there is bias in the design of COPEH-LAC towards the work of researchers. The format does not allow for a massive insertion of social actors/leaders".

Other respondents commented on the challenges of sustaining any progress in relation to reaching out other actors: "We have managed to involve some policy and decision-makers. However, we cannot advance due high rotation of personnel in the different institutions or a shift in government policies". Several respondents also stated that reaching other actors has been difficult due to lack of effective communication strategies and adequate materials for each specific audience. One respondent referred to it in the following way: " I feel we do not communicate well all the work we have done, in addition, it is clear that in one extreme are those that publish articles and in the other extreme are those that carry-out very good practical work and thinking but do not write about it".

3.2.6 What are the issues that the COPEH should consider for its strengthening and sustainability in the region?

In the web-based survey, the largest number of responses to the question was the need of influencing policy, with nearly sixty-seven percent of respondents indicating this. Also, sixty percent2 of respondents indicated that this should be done through extension activities outside of the academic arena. The same percentage indicated that this also ought to be done through training and also through the institutionalization of EcoHealth in national and regional programs. Fifty-five percent of the community of practice members that responded the survey indicated that consolidation and sustainability could be achieved through greater academic production while half of the respondents suggested the strengthening of external cooperation links. Forty-three percent suggest that strengthening and sustainability should be achieved through internal cooperation links.

This question was also addressed by asking key COPEH-LAC actors about the gaps in the implementation of the phase II of the project.

During the in-depth interviews, this question was addressed through exploring the perceived gaps in COPEH LAC work and the actions/strategies that should be implemented to strengthen it. Most respondents agreed in two very relevant issues. The first one is that COPEH LAC should strive to include young professionals on a larger number. The second issue is the need to recruit new members with different and complementary skills/knowledge to the current members and that they could bring new themes into the community of practice.

Several key informants commented that a major gap and challenge is to implement real interdisciplinary work. Some of their comments were: "there is still too much work based on a single discipline"; "we invite people from other disciplines to seminars and that goes well, but once we want to do practical work, then is when all challenges arise".

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[2] The numbers do not add up to 100 given that the respondents could present multiple choices if they chose to, which many did.

A key informant explained that another major gap is the writing-up of academic articles: "we are used to writing training materials for civil society organization but not for academic journals". This is a very important issue because from the different interviews, the evaluators noted that some nodes have been doing relevant work around capacity-building and participatory research processes with civil society organizations. The academic contribution of such work is not in terms of findings from mainstream research but on describing and analysing the processes that have been implemented and its results for community agency. Certainly writing-up about processes for capacity-building and participatory research for an academic audience is different than writing mainstream research findings. The journals publishing such work are also different from the journals that publish research papers.

Several respondents also identified conceptual gaps. One of them said: "although there have been conceptual advances, we still need to address relevant concepts such as interculturality". Another respondent stated: "communities have their own concepts and understandings, for instance, indigenous communities have ancestral knowledge such as "el buen vivir"[3]. We as practitioners need to reflect and understand those community views and work with such concepts".

Another relevant finding from the in-depth interviews is the difference on expectations for the future among some of the nodes. For instance, whereas several key informants from the Andean node see that COPEH-LAC should be strengthened through expanding the membership of other social actors and implementing participatory methods, the Brazilian node see that more academic/scientific research will strengthen COPEH-LAC.. These divergent views are part of the heterogeneity of COPEH LAC. While this can, in some ways, enrich the community of practice, it has at the same time important implications to be considered, especially when resources are limited

[3] "the good life"

3.2.7 What are the issues for the Ecohealth program to consider for building and consolidating the field of EcoHealth in Latin America and the Caribbean?

In the web-based survey, when community of practice members were asked how they envisage IDRC's EcoHealth program's role in contributing to building and consolidating the field in Latin America and the Caribbean, they also had several forward looking recommendations based on their experience with COPEH LAC. Clearly many indicated the role of IDRC as a funding institution, and suggested further funding for training, for institutional support, for publications, and for further research based on the approach, or even funding for a third phase for the community of practice. Also, several suggestions indicated that IDRC should play an active role as a link with other donor agencies, as well as having IDRC play a role in fostering international links and alliances. Another set of suggestions indicate that IDRC should also play an active role of promoting the visibility of COPEH LAC (within IDRC but also with other partners) and further exchanges with other COPEHs (COPEH - Canada is indicated as an example).

Capacity-building of young researchers: an outcome that must be expanded: During the in-depth interviews, several young researchers that are members of COPEH-LAC were interviewed. All of them expressed the importance of COPEH-LAC in relation to acquiring skills and knowledge and learning from senior researchers. They provided specific examples of opportunities for learning and broadening their contacts with other peers that have been facilitated through COPEH-LAC. They also had clear ideas about the future of COPEH-LAC and showed critical thinking regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the CoP. Overall, the evaluators could identify that in those young researchers interviewed, there was a clear outcome related to capacity-building that has been facilitated by COPEH-LAC. And this is an outcome that must be expanded since the majority of people interviewed for this evaluation were critical about the relative low number of young researchers that are members. This is relevant because communities of practice are spaces in which mentorship and other capacity-building strategies can be implemented and nurtured. Based on the successful experience of the few young researchers interviewed, the evaluators encourage COPEH-LAC to actively recruit young people and implement systematic activities aimed to the capacity-building of those members.

During the in-depth interviews, most respondents recognized that having an influence in public policy is a major goal and they would like COPEH LAC to be able to do that. Public policy is a complex field that requires a specific "theory of change" to guide the actions, strategies and processes of any community of practice or similar organizations (i.e. networks, movements,). Engaging with public policy-making also requires the use of different tools and methods from those used to carry-out research and communicating with academia. During the evaluation, it became clear that although most actors within COPEH LAC agree on the goal of influencing public policy, they do not have a framework (theory of change) or specific tools to engage with such

endeavor. Several respondents recognized it and one of them stated: “We are clear we need an approach for that type of work but to be honest, we do not have that expertise within COPEH LAC, so we have gone all this time knowing that we need it but not being able to produce it.”

4. Conclusions

In concurrence with the project objectives, the main issue that this evaluation has pursued is an understanding of the degree to which COPEH LAC has contributed to regional knowledge building and capacities in EcoHealth, and the degree to which the community of practice has contributed to make a change in terms of knowledge and capacities in the region. Regarding this, when analyzing stakeholders’ inputs4 to the evaluation as well as analyzing the products generated, the overall result of the project is satisfactory.

There has been a certain degree of scientifically sound knowledge production (not only academic papers, but also a large amount of presentations to congresses and reports). Also, at the time of the evaluation other publications are still in the production phase which will be the direct result of COPEH LAC. However, several caveats must drawn. First, that the production is of course the individual members’ in its most part given that COPEH LAC itself is not a generator of knowledge. At best it can be said that COPEH LAC has to some degree influenced knowledge production. Second, that publishing is not part of the academic ‘culture’ in most of Latin America. Therefore a certain degree of concentration of publications occurred in those countries that do have a publishing emphasis or where COPEH LAC nodes were universities or academic-oriented organizations within these particular countries, but not in other nations/nodes/sub regions.

A large degree of exchanges has taken place. This has been an emphasis of the community that the members have pointed out and provided evidence of repeatedly. Training and capacity building are conceptually included in the implementation of knowledge exchange, as well as internal debates between and among COPEH members. This has been one of the main emphases of COPEH LAC, i.e. exchanges between its members. A few alliances have been consolidated with other donors and with regional agencies, as well as particular alliances that some nodes implemented at the national or local levels.

The degree to which institutionalization has taken place is a challenging concept to grasp. Although the participation by community members in institutionalizing the EcoHealth approach is high, the results and outcomes are insecure at best. That is, no evidence of sustainable long-lasting institutionalization can be produced. There is no clear and conclusive evidence of embedding the approach in a critical set of significant academic settings and almost no substantiation at all of embedding it in policy programs and institutions. Just valuable discrete events yet they do not evidence continuity. For example, workshops have been dictated or classes have been given, but there is no “EcoHealth Approach” academic program or policy area within

[4] Stakeholders such as node coordinators, COPEH LAC members, as well as other individuals that have participated in some capacity in COPEH LAC activities.

institutions per se. However, this has to be analyzed also under the light that in Latin America trans disciplinarity in academia and in policy arenas (as called for by the approach) is difficult to implement since the institutions are not collaborative across disciplines or policy areas. Institutionalization of trans disciplinarity is a factor often beyond the capacities of the community of practice.

In this matter is relevant to briefly analyze what the nodes themselves consider strategic allies and their relation with COPEH LAC, not only looking at the issue of institutionalization but also sustainability in the future. What the nodes in South America (i.e. Andean Node, Brazil Node, and Southern Cone Node) consider 'strategic allies' is at times confused with individuals from outside the community of practice that took part in some COPEH LAC activity. Only two true strategic alliances (one ongoing – PAHO--) have been identified with institutions to carry out permanent or semi-permanent work together within the EcoHealth approach. These being namely PAHO and *Institut de recherché pour le développement* (IRD). With PAHO a series of strategic planned activities have been carried out in common with COPEH LAC, and IRD has had fruitful collaborations in specific projects as well as in conceptualization issues.

It was also indicated that other alliances are being sought for the future (i.e. mainly after the end of the project and after the evaluation). For example, given the overlap between relevant stakeholders of COPEH LAC and the International Society for Ecology and Health, an alliance between the two is being sought for the future. Furthermore, in the various technical and output reports drafted by the community of practice, they reported a strong series of alliances. However, this evaluation could not corroborate nor collect strong indicators regarding the consolidation of alliances besides the ones mentioned above and expanded upon below.Although many of the individuals identified as strategic allies by the nodes themselves are just professionals with a circumstantial relationship to the nodes and/or their activities (for example, individuals that have participated in a given workshop, etc.), a few true alliances have been identified. It is of note, however, that all of the consulted individuals –strategic allies or persons who have participated in some specific activity-- have had positive views of COPEH LAC. Either by expressing that their association with the community of practice has enriched their perceptions and work in the environment and health field, or that their association with the community has generated fruitful exchanges of projects, research, and other products. Furthermore, all identified stakeholders have indicated a wish to further their work with the community of practice or to further collaboration in the near future.

It would greatly benefit the community of practice to outreach to other institutions in order to work in a more or less organic manner in order to strengthen the EcoHealth approach and institutionalize it. It would benefit the community of practice to do so in a strategic manner and not only in a circumstantial way. Some future alliances have been reported for the future. It would be of interest to follow the outcomes of these alliances and see if indeed they are strategic and productive.

COPEH LAC has contributed greatly to the evolution of the field of EcoHealth in conceptual terms. The community of practice not only has made the field its own but has enriched and advanced the concepts and visions. The members are highly aware that the approach is in construction and that their inputs have influenced the evolution of the field and of the approach. Although the approach is deemed relevant, it has been indicated repeatedly that the regional inputs have enriched it. For example, by incorporating multi culturalism as an aspect, by bringing in disciplines into the debate that were not part of EcoHealth (such as work-related issues or social medicine concepts) and by strengthening the analysis of certain components that were weak (such as socio-economic issues).

The main issue to contend with regarding the outcomes and impact of COPEH LAC is the matter of how it linked (or not) with civil society organizations and with the policy field. Although it was clear that one of the main intents, aims and objectives of this second phase was to move beyond academic production and knowledge promotion, this has been one of the gaps identified by this evaluation. While members indicated that they sought policy influence and working relationships with civil society organizations (including grassroots groups), and products were generated in this vein, the outcome has not been highly successful. Some engagement of policy actors and civil society did take place (varying from node to node, with less inclusion in the more academic-oriented nodes), and some consultations did also take place with grass roots organizations. Yet, there is no overarching evidence that policy influence did take place or that civil society organizations (particularly grass roots) were fully assembled in the different nodes.

The degree of COPEH LAC's likelihood of sustainability in the medium and long term casts a mixed valuation. If the analysis considers the members ownership, nodes' and members' expressed strategies, consolidation and self-perception, as well as internal interactions, the prospects of sustainability are high. COPEH LAC has also been successful in partnering or reaching some key regional and international agencies, which aids in sustainability. However, if resources available and resource mobilization are analyzed, the valuation differs. Funding is an issue that must be contended with when analyzing sustainability of a community of practice. Funding outside of the IDRC portfolio has been secured by some nodes for their individual work, yet funding for the community as a whole has not been secured to date. Although the community has tried determinedly to obtain funds for COPEH LAC, constraints beyond the community's responsibility are very evident. Not only constraints in the amount of funding Latin American efforts receive or are eligible for currently but also the lack of funding available for networking of the type the COPEHs carry-out.

The evaluation revealed two major gaps within COPEH LAC. The first one is a poor systematization of the processes and learning occurring out of those processes. This could be the result of an emphasis on quantifiable outputs such as publications, workshops and courses. Learning through processes requires a different approach to systematization, monitoring and evaluation. There are tools and methods from ethnography and critical pedagogy that are suitable to systematize that type of processes and learning.

The second gap, which is related to the first gap described above, is the lack of a comprehensive knowledge management strategy. Communicating and sharing knowledge across nodes and other relevant stakeholders is one of the most important tasks of any community of practice. This task has been implemented with limitations within COPEH LAC. Because the systematization of processes within COPEH LAC is poor, this directly affects the possibility of developing and implementing knowledge management products, strategies and processes.

5. Recommendations

- Regarding what are the issues that the COPEH should consider for its strengthening and sustainability in the region and to consider for building and consolidating the field of EcoHealth in Latin America and the Caribbean, this will be described in two ways: content and process.

- First of all regarding content, it has been pointed out by stakeholders (and literature analysis corroborates this) that the work of COPEH LAC is weak in some disciplines. For example, the lack of environmental expertise is one of the fields pointed out as lacking. Also, deeper analysis of socio-economic issues and determinants as associated to health and environment are content considerations that can only strengthen the field and the community of practice. Equity aspects are also fragile. Although some gender sensibilization and capacity building in gender issues as they relate to health and the environment have been conveyed, this area is still weak. Also regarding equity, multi-cultural aspects have been missing in the approach and in the field. What are new issues in the region should also be incorporated in order for the community of practice work to be relevant. The incorporation of different disciplines in the work of the community of practice should be sought. Academic work, research and training should strive to incorporate the different disciplines and areas that make up the EcoHealth approach (such as health, environmental issues, gender, development, sociology and anthropology).

- For example, stakeholders indicate that new matters, such as climate change – related issues need to be incorporated in most of the nodes work (for instance, climate change impacts as they relate to health and environment, climate change adaptation, etc.). Further development of the approach should be sought, incorporating issues relevant to the region. The approach could greatly benefit from taking greater strides to incorporate relevant regional issues furthering the ones which have already began to be incorporated (ethnicity, socio-economic issues, etc.).

- Regarding process issues, here also the matters are twofold. First regarding the involvement of civil society groups (particularly grass roots organizations) and second regarding policy influence. Regarding the involvement of civil society groups, the community of practice should have a strategy that would involve not only consultation and training (top down approaches) but also other ways of linking with these sorts of organizations. It should also be very clear in these strategies that there should be some value added for the civil society and grass roots organizations themselves in the participation in COPEH activities. Regarding policy influence, COPEH LAC faced the typical challenges and difficulties of policy – influence by a mainly academic community, yet compounded by the multidisciplinarity issue that does not correspond well to policy arenas in Latin America. If embarking on projects that seek policy influence, this should be strategically planned with clear policy influence frameworks (theories of change). These frameworks should purposefully identify strategies, processes and indicators that can follow broadly defined policy changes (changes in procedures, norms, policy contents, etc.).

- The project could have benefited from some sort of more formalized monitoring throughout its life span, in order to track its activities and give better inputs to the visibility to its achievements; therefore it is recommended that formalized monitoring be incorporated in the future.

- Generate and implement a comprehensive knowledge management and communication strategy. This with the purpose to disseminate knowledge products and also to visibilize products, outcomes and work of the community of practice.

- The work of the community of practice and of the EcoHealth field would benefit from linking to other related models, frameworks, and analysis that deal with health and environment in integrated manners. This would allow for the concept to be updated and at the same time dialogue other relevant multi and interdisciplinary models.

- Promote exchanges and linkages between and among the different community of practices as well as with other international and regional relevant actors. The exchanges with other community of practices should be generated to interchange activities, views, information, research and results in order to benefit and broaden the EcoHealth approach.

- To expose COPEH LAC members to current tools and methods from ethnography and critical pedagogy, that are highly useful for the systematization of processes and knowledge within organizations that seek collective production and sharing of knowledge (as this community of practice).

- As stated earlier, it appears that the nodes have different interests and identities. This would facilitate that nodes attempt to rise funding following their particular interest and expertise. For instance, the work carried-out in the Andean node may be of interest for funding agencies concerned about human rights and environmental sustainability.

Annexes

- Annex 1. Evaluators
- Annex 2. Evaluation TORs
- Annex 3. List of project documents reviewed
- Annex 4. Evaluation Matrix
- Annex 5. Data collection instruments (interview protocols and survey questionnaires)
- Annex 6. COPEH LAC Vision, strategic objectives and outcomes 2010-2015

- **Annex 1. Evaluators**

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- **Annex 2. Evaluation TORs**

Terms of Reference – COPEH LAC External Evaluation

COPEH LAC Dissemination and Institutionalization for Research, Outreach and Policy Influence (2nd phase)
Project Number: 105151

Background

The Community of Practice of Ecohealth in Latin America and the Caribbean (COPEH LAC) was established in December 1995 (1st phase) with the goal of building excellence in ecohealth research, facilitating communications and networking within the LAC region on ecohealth research, and linking ecohealth research to policy and practice.

In July 2009 IDRC approved a 2nd phase of COPEH LAC with the purpose of promoting the incorporation of the ecohealth approach (concepts, methods and tools) in research, education, and outreach programmes, in order to obtain and strengthen linkages with policy-makers and civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Though the 2nd phase of IDRC funding will end in January 2013, COPEH LAC goals and life span goes beyond IDRC's funding.

COPEH LAC aims to strengthen the cooperation between scientists and educators from LAC and Canada, and to reinforce the capabilities in research institutions, in relation to the ecosystem approach to human health. Through its actions, COPEH LAC envisions to contribute to the improvement of human health and the creation of healthier environments in the LAC region.

The 2nd phase began with a workshop in Quito, Ecuador that enabled the development of a strategic planning framework. While IDRC funding will conclude in January 2013, the timespan of the strategy outcomes cover until January 2015. During the 2nd phase COPEH LAC kept the model of nodal autonomy, and the nodes of Mexico, Brazil, Southern Cone, Andean Region, Central America and the Caribbean, and CINBIOSE have continued to promote and develop the ecosystem approach to human health in the LAC region. This phase added the development of transversal technical workgroup structures with a current focus on five areas: a) curriculum development, b) social network analysis, c) exposure to metals, d) writing of a book contributing with conceptual and methodological ecohealth regional inputs, and e) community leaders and gender.

The 3rd technical report (list of attached documents – reviewed version submitted on 08 October 2012) informs that "a longitudinal evaluation provided by social network analysis (internal evaluation), shows a strengthening of the collaborative links of the network, reflected by increased inter-group relations. It argues that the solid transversal technical workgroup structures are promising for the sustainability of the COPEH LAC. The membership of the COPEH LAC has stabilized, reaching a balance between growth and efficiency; making the network more robust."

This report indicates that COPEH LAC has improved its internal (intra & inter-nodal) and external collaboration patterns during the 2nd phase and this has increased its capacity with respect to: the building and strengthening of partnerships; the dissemination and reach of EcoHealth in the LAC region; the application of Ecohealth concepts and principles into existing projects in LAC; the

inclusion of EcoHealth approaches in undergraduate courses, postgraduate activities and community outreach.

Members of the COPEH LAC have been coordinating a process of resource mobilization to obtain future funding. In the last year, various proposals were submitted, but unfortunately only one was funded. Nevertheless, COPEH LAC continues its efforts to obtain funding. The resource mobilization strategy has also focused on funding the specific themes of transversal groups.

Scope and main characteristics of the external evaluation of 2nd phase

While the external evaluation of the 1st phase was more directed towards COPEH's own institutional health, this evaluation's focus is on how has COPEH LAC contributed to develop regional knowledge and capacities in ecohealth and therefore contributed to the development, sustainability and evolution of the field of ecohealth.

The main purpose of the external evaluation of COPEH LAC's 2nd phase is to produce relevant insights and recommendations aiming to contribute to the strengthening and sustainability of COPEH LAC and its contribution to the field of ecohealth.

While COPEH LAC is preparing its own internal evaluation[5] with an emphasis on the results of the social network analysis, IDRC is responsible for the external evaluation. The main characteristics of the external evaluation were already shared (and agreed) with COPEH LAC.

4 main themes or areas were agreed with COPEH LAC:

a) Analysis of COPEH LAC performance based on the achievement of its strategic objectives, with a core emphasis on the first one (see diagram 1).

b) Analysis of the internal dynamics and sustainability of the community of practice based on the inputs provided by COPEH LAC social network analysis. The external evaluation will verify the results of the social network analysis and deepen the analysis of its strength and sustainability.

c) Analysis of the progress in promoting the ecohealth approach in the region and of COPEH LAC external reach: how COPEH LAC has contributed to position the ecohealth approach in the region and the level of recognition as a relevant player in the field of health and environment among key audiences in LAC.

d) Based on the previous three themes, an analysis of the relevance and contributions in the development, sustainability and evolution of the field of ecohealth in LAC.

The external evaluation goal is to provide useful learning for COPEH LAC and IDRC based both on the positive achievements and existing weakness.

[5] In parallel to the external evaluation, COPEH LAC will produce its own internal evaluation that is based on the social network analysis of the community of practice. It will provide relevant insights of the resilience of the network resulting of its internal dynamics.

The evaluation of COPEH LAC performance should provide relevant insights aiming to strengthen the community of practice, its sustainability and its contribution to the field of ecohealth in LAC. Consequently, it has a learning orientation and will not be used to take decisions about future funding. When IDRC approved COPEH LAC 2nd phase it was made clear that this was the final funding phase.

Users and Uses of the external evaluation

The external evaluation envisages two primary intended users: the Ecohealth program team and the COPEH LAC. In addition, other COPEHs in other parts of the world will be an interested audience of this evaluation, and provide key inputs for their growth and consolidation.

For the first two users, the overall intent is to provide key learning insights based on the identification and documentation of achievements, gaps and challenges. Table 1 summarizes IDRC and COPEH LAC intended evaluation uses. Within IDRC, the core user will be the Ecohealth Program, and it will enable to better assess how to further support the consolidation of the field of ecohealth in LAC.

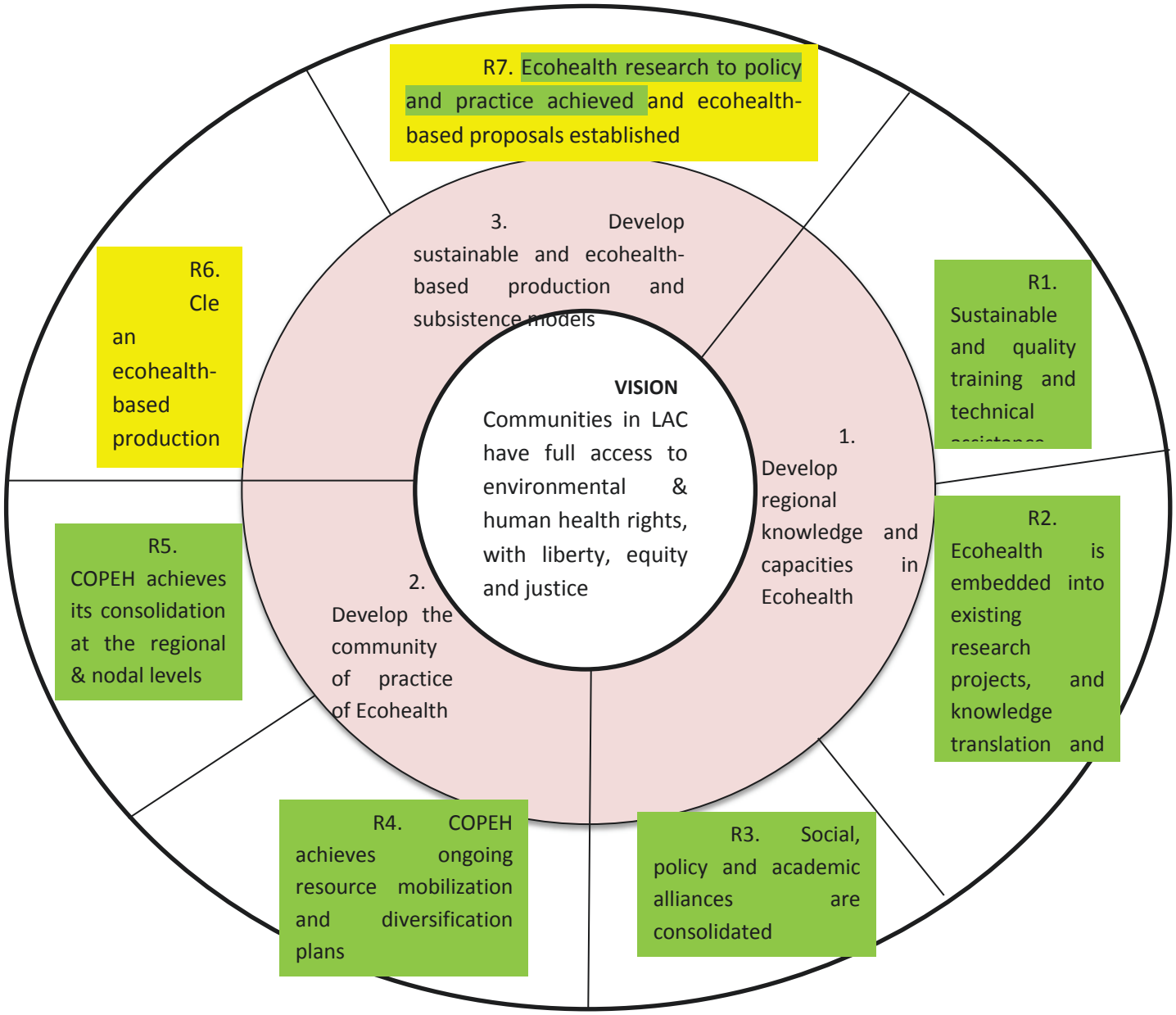
Table 1. Themes and Uses of the External Evaluation discussed with COPEH LAC

THEMES	IDRC uses	COPEH LAC uses
a) Analysis of COPEH LAC performance based on the achievement of its strategic objectives (see Figure 1)	Internal accountability and relevant input contributing to the Ecohealth Program 2010-2015 evaluation, mapping and highlighting of program outcomes	Build evidence of results and their quality as a tool for internal accountability and the planning of alliances and resource mobilization. The analysis of performance gaps and/or weaknesses should contribute to review COPEH LAC outcome areas that need further improvement
b) Analysis of the format, internal dynamics and sustainability of the community of practice based on the inputs provided by COPEH LAC social network analysis	Guide strategic decisions on the appropriateness, strengths and weakness of communities of practice as key programmatic regional players	Strengthening of COPEH LAC's strategy, processes and practices
c) Analyze the progress made in the promotion of the ecohealth approach in the region and of COPEH LAC external reach.	Take advantage of achievements and fulfill regional programming gaps	Consolidate and/or strengthen strategies aiming to promote ecohealth and better position COPEH LAC in the region

d) Based upon the previous themes, analyze the relevance and contributions in the development, sustainability and evolution of the field of ecohealth in LAC	To understand and communicate the role played by COPEH LAC in the building and sustainability of the field of ecohealth in the region	Document and strengthen the role played by the community of practice in the building and sustainability of the field of ecohealth in the region

The Figure below represents a high level summary of COPEH LAC strategic objectives and expected outcomes. They are explained and reported in detail in COPEH LAC's 2nd and 3rd technical reports.

Figure 1. COPEH LAC Vision, strategic objectives and outcomes 2010-2015



Core evaluation questions

Based on the themes of the evaluation, the following core evaluation questions represent a step forward in the evaluation planning.

The core evaluation questions should guide the evaluation contents and process, and therefore it is proposed to refine them once the consultant(s) will be selected.

a) To which degree has COPEH LAC contributed to build regional knowledge and capacities in ecohealth? (basically COPEH LAC strategic objective 1 – see the figure)

   The evaluation will analyze the expected outcomes included under this strategic objective: influencing knowledge production, implementing knowledge exchange, translation and dissemination; developing training courses and ecohealth capacities within and outside COPEH LAC; consolidating academic, social and policy alliances. In sum, to which degree COPEH LAC contributed to make a change in terms of ecohealth knowledge and capacities in the region.
   The review will analyze the scientific soundness, relevance and outreach of results.

b) To which degree has COPEH LAC institutionalized the ecohealth approach and therefore contributed to the sustainability of the field of ecohealth? (this question connects the previous and following one)

   Assess to which extent COPEH LAC helped to embed the ecohealth approach into the academic and policy programs and institutions, and how this has contributed to expand and sustain the field of ecohealth in the region.

c) How and to what extent is COPEH LAC contributing to the evolution of the field of ecohealth?

   In connection with the previous question and considering that: “a field is a social space populated by interacting actors with a shared overarching vision, common or compatible approaches and practices, and shared structures” (see paper on Field Building in Ecohealth), how has COPEH LAC contributed to the progress of concepts, methodologies, knowledge base and to the institutional practices and resources feeding the field of ecohealth in the region.

d) To what extent has COPEH LAC become more sustainable?

   The external evaluation will assess COPEH LAC’s statements about its consolidation and sustainability, particularly as documented in its social network analysis. It will therefore verify the results of their internal evaluation and deepen the analysis of COPEH’s strength and sustainability. The results of the social network analysis are based on a longitudinal study of its internal interactions and showcase an increased resilience of the community of practice.

e) Which progress was made in promoting the approach among academic, social, policy and donor audiences and how successful was COPEH LAC in partnering or reaching key

regional or international players and agencies both for its own and for the ecohealth field sustainability?
This question refers to COPEH LAC external reach and relationships.

f) Arising from this evaluation, two forward-looking summary questions address COPEH LAC and IDRC fundamental uses of this evaluation:

f1) what are the issues that the COPEH should consider for its strengthening and sustainability in the region?

f2) what are the issues for the Ecohealth program to consider for building and consolidating the field of ecohealth in Latin America and the Caribbean?

Though the sustainability of the community of practice is by itself an important issue, IDRC ultimate goal focus on the consolidation and sustainability of the field of ecohealth in LAC.

Workplan and Methodological Considerations

As a first step of the process two Skype conferences are planned between IDRC involved staff and the selected consultant(s) to refine the evaluation questions and methods.

The evaluation should combine desk study and interviews to relevant actors. The desk study includes the analysis of a series of documents that will be provided by IDRC. The evaluators may request complementary documentation to COPEH LAC Coordinating Committee and IDRC whenever they consider that it will be a valuable input for their work.

a) Document Review

The key documents that will be provided by IDRC are[6]:

Ecohealth Program Prospectus 2010-2015 *
Ecohealth theory of change and ecohealth field building monitoring outcomes
Ecohealth IDRC Paper on Field Building *
Table with Ecohealth type of actors
Final Technical Report of 1st phase
Project Approval Document (PAD) and Phase 2 proposal *
First technical report mid 2010
Second technical report mid 2011 + Table of Outputs*
Third technical report (reviewed version 08 October 2012)* + Table with Outputs including e-links*
Reports of the social network analysis *
Annexes of technical reports including key papers or workshop reports or transversal activities
Project monitoring reports *

The outputs produced by COPEH LAC during the 2nd phase will be part of the core material to be reviewed by the consultants (the review will analyze their quality and relevance vis a vis COPEH LAC strategic objectives and their contribution to ecohealth field building outcomes).

b) Interview with relevant actors

[6] * = very important

The evaluators will carry out telephone/Skype interviews and selected field visits with key COPEH LAC players and relevant stakeholders in order to better understand the modality of functioning, outcomes, outreach and sustainability of the community of practice. Interviews and field visits will be guided by the core evaluation questions and will make emphasis on the assessment of quality and relevance of outcomes.

The following groups will be sampled:

IDRC staff, COPEH LAC coordination committee, key nodal players, other nodal players (COPEH LAC members), CONEDSA consultancy firm (resource mobilization mentoring) and external regional stakeholders of key importance: strategic alliances including the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) regional program officer based in Peru, Institute for Research and Development (IRD) partnership, International Association for Ecology and Health (IAEH), LAC Ecohealth Field Building Initiative, COPEH-Canada and/or others suggested by COPEH LAC and relevant in terms of outreach and/or sustainability of the community of practice.

At the COPEH LAC nodal level, selected interviews will be planned with relevant COPEH LAC working partners (decision makers from different sectors and country levels, social organizations and academic players). A short list of the most relevant working partners per node will be requested to COPEH LAC by IDRC staff after refining the methods and work plan with the selected consultant(s).

IDRC will provide an initial list of persons representing the different groups to be sampled. The evaluator(s) will have the freedom to go beyond this initial list.

c) Synthesis and validation

An advanced draft of the consultancy report will be reviewed by IDRC and the COPEH LAC coordination committee. This document should not exceed 30 pages (annexes excluded). Feedback will be provided to the consultant(s) for the preparation of a final report. This will include correction of factual errors and/or omissions.

On the basis of the final report, COPEH LAC and IDRC will each provide a concise statement (no more than two pages) summarizing their response to the evaluation study and how they intend to use it. These statements will be included as part of the final report. The consultant(s), if they deemed necessary, may include a response to the statements in the final report.

Process

Ecohealth will organize a closed call to potential consultants for this evaluation. The letters of invitation will include the current terms of reference, Ecohealth Program Prospectus 2010-2015 and COPEH LAC 2nd phase proposal. Based on an assessment of candidates' expressions of interest, CVs and proposed evaluation design, Ecohealth will select two consultants with complementary skills on evaluation and ecohealth. As part of the terms of reference, the two consultants will work together and produce a single methodological design and a single consultancy report.

Qualification and Selection criteria

The selection criteria will be based on the following qualifications:

a) Knowledge and experience in working in the region
b) The consultant(s) must be capable of reading and have an appropriate level of oral communication in English and Spanish. It would be an asset to have a working knowledge of Portuguese and French.
c) An arms-length relationship with the COPEH LAC project, principal investigator/coordinator and regional nodes coordinators is considered essential.
d) Previous exposure to the field of ecohealth would be an asset.
e) Expertise in the evaluation of research and development programs or projects in the region
f) Knowledge and experience in networks and/or communities of practice
g) Proposed tentative/draft evaluation summary (up to 1 page)
h) Willingness to work in close collaboration and complement with the second selected evaluator and proof of team work ability
i) Appropriate number of days allocated to the evaluation
j) Commitment to follow the timeline of the evaluation

We anticipate that this evaluation will require two consultants working together. You are invited to apply either as an individual, or as a team. An IDRC committee will review the candidate's submission and select two external consultants with complementary skills.

Fee

The consultancy fee per person was fixed at $20,000 Canadian Dollars for the entire evaluation (per consultant, up to two consultants), including research and/or administrative expenses, and excluding travel expenses. Travel expenses will be added by IDRC after defining the field trip (up to 6 days in LAC). The selected consultants may use part of their fee to pay for a research assistant.

Letter of submission

The deadline for the letters of submission will be on Wednesday 24 October 2012. Each candidate should submit a letter indicating:

a) Professional interest in the evaluation;
b) Time availability to perform the evaluation according to the established timeline (see below);
c) Indicate how the candidate fulfills the selection criteria;
d) Attach a short tentative summary evaluation plan (up to 1 page);
e) Attach a copy of the resume (CV) highlighting knowledge/experience in evaluation of research and development programs/projects, networks or communities of practice and/or on ecohealth;
f) The total budget (CAD $20,000) should be expressed in number of days, fee/day plus research and/or administrative expenses (if required by the candidate).

Timeline

- Close invitation: Wednesday 17 October
- Deadline for applications: Wednesday 24 October
- Announcement of the 2 selected consultants: Friday 26 October
- Email with documents (See Review Documents) to the 2 selected consultants: Friday 26 October

- 1st Skype conference with selected consultants: Monday 29 October or Wednesday 31 October
- Desk study, interviews and travel (up to 6 days): from October 29 to December 31
- Final report by consultants: January 15, 2013

Annex 3. List of project documents reviewed

- 36 mo. Technical report for UQAM---IDRC project ---No. 105151---002, COPEH---LAC: CINBIOSE.
- COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE IN ECOHEALTH – DISSEMINATION AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION FOR RESARCH, OUTREACH AND POLICY INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN : PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE ECOHEALTH PROGRAM OF IDRC BY THE MEMBERS OF COPEH-LAC, June 2009.
- COPEH-LAC Dissemination and Institutionalization for Research, Outreach and Policy Influence, IDRC Project Number 105151, Program Area/Group Agriculture and Environment | ECOHEALTH.
- Ecohealth Program Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy, IDRC.
- Ecosystems and Human Health, Program Overview 2010-2015, IDRC, March 2010.
- Final technical report phase 1, COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE IN ECOSYSTEM HEALTH TO REDUCE TOXIC EXPOSURES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (COPEH-TLAC), April, 2009.
- IDRC's Approach to Field-building in Ecohealth, EcoHealth 2012, Kunming, China.
- III Informe técnico de progreso, Periodo agosto 2011 – agosto 2012, COPEH LAC.
- Informe técnico de avance 1, Fase II, Julio del 2010, COPEH LAC.
- Informe Técnico Final. COMUNIDAD DE PRÁCTICA EN ECO SALUD – DIFUSIÓN E INSTITUCIONALIZACIÓN DE LA INVESTIGACIÓN, LA EXTENSIÓN Y LAS INFLUENCIAS POLÍTICAS EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE , Fase II, Número del Proyecto IDRC: 052237, Febrero 2013.
- Productos CoPEH LAC – III Informe Técnico, Anexo 1, Agosto 2011 – Agosto 2012, COPEH LAC.
- Project Monitoring Report, June 2011, IDRC.
- Project Monitoring Report, October 2012, IDRC.
- Types of Actors in Ecohealth, IDRC.

- **Annex 4. Evaluation Matrix**

CORE QUESTION	APPROACH	DATA COLLECTION TOOLS
1) To which degree has COPEH LAC contributed to build regional knowledge and capacities in EcoHealth? (basically COPEH LAC strategic objective 1 – see the figure) The evaluation will analyze the expected outcomes included under this strategic objective: influencing knowledge production, implementing knowledge exchange, translation and dissemination; developing training courses and EcoHealth capacities within and outside COPEH LAC; consolidating academic, social and policy alliances.	Outcomes will be organized in 3 categories: a) knowledge production outputs: Articles published in peer-review journals and key reports published as grey literature. b) capacity building outputs: contribution to undergraduate and postgraduate training and other training workshops c) dissemination and visibility outputs: oral and poster presentations at conferences, audiovisual materials, and websites. Nodes will be requested to submit databases or reports accounting for these types of outputs. The web-based survey will also include specific questions about these types of outputs.	1) Web-based survey to the COPEH-LAC universe, 2) In-depth interviews with key members of COPEH-LAC: enquiring about perceptions about different outputs (whether sufficient, insufficient, challenges and opportunities to produce the different outputs and lessons learned.3) Desk-review of databases and the list of outputs included in the 3rd technical report of COPEH LAC- August 2012.
2) To which degree has COPEH LAC institutionalized the EcoHealth approach and therefore contributed to the sustainability of the field of EcoHealth? (this question connects the previous and following one) Assess to which extent COPEH LAC helped to embed the EcoHealth approach into the academic and policy programs and institutions, and how this has contributed to expand and sustain the field of	This will be done in two ways. In the survey to the universe, we will for specific examples about institutionalization among academia, policy programs an institutions. In the in-depth interviews, there will be questions about the specific mechanism that have contributed to the perceived institutionalization-or lack of it. Key issues to address during in-depth interviews are respondents' definition **and** understanding of	1) web-based survey sent to COPEH-LAC universe 2) in-depth interviews and 3) list of outputs including training courses (provided by the different nodes and also those included in the 3rd technical report.

CORE QUESTION	APPROACH	DATA COLLECTION TOOLS
EcoHealth in the region.	"institutionalization" and "sustainability".	
3) How and to what extent is COPEH LAC contributing to the evolution of the field of EcoHealth? In connection with the previous question and considering that: How has COPEH LAC contributed to the progress of concepts, methodologies, knowledge base and to the institutional practices and resources feeding the field of EcoHealth in the region?.	1) In the surveys to the universe, include specific questions about contributions to advance concepts and methodologies. 2) In-depth interviews: what do actors perceive about the evolution of EcoHealth, its concepts and approaches, methodologies? Also, ask in what ways, EcoHealth has changed respondents' institutional practices.	1) Web-based survey to COPEH-LAC universe, 2) In-depth interviews to key COPEH-LAC members: 3) Desk-review of related outputs collected through both survey and in-depth interviews and 3rd technical report.
4) To what extent has COPEH LAC become more sustainable? The external evaluation will assess COPEH LAC's statements about its consolidation and sustainability, particularly as documented in its social network analysis.	This will be done through consultants' own analysis. Specific criteria will be agreed, to assess the level of sustainability of COPEH LAC. The analysis of sustainability should take into account the key actors' own perceptions and should explore some key issues around the sociopolitical contexts. Hence, in the in-depth interview guides, specific questions should be asked about these issues	1) web-based survey to the universe; 2) in-depth interview to key actors and c) consultants will discuss and agree on a criteria about "sustainability" and contrasts responses from both web-based survey and in-depth interview with the criteria.
5) Which progress was made in promoting the approach among academic, social, policy and donor audiences and how successful was COPEH LAC in partnering or reaching key regional or international players and agencies both for its own and	This will be enquired through question 2 and the in-depth interview. The survey will include specific questions about external collaborations, reach-out of members and ask for specific examples.	1) survey-based to the universe and 2) in-depth interview to key actors

CORE QUESTION	APPROACH	DATA COLLECTION TOOLS
for the EcoHealth field sustainability? This question refers to COPEH LAC external reach and relationships.		
6) Arising from this evaluation, two forward-looking summary questions address COPEH LAC and IDRC fundamental uses of this evaluation: -what are the issues that the COPEH should consider for its strengthening and sustainability in the region? -what are the issues for the Ecohealth program to consider for building and consolidating the field of EcoHealth in Latin America and the Caribbean?	The in-depth interview should ask the key actors' perception on these two questions. Then, the consultants analysis should be based both, on those perceptions and all the information gathered during the review/assessment.	1) web-based survey and 2) in-depth interviews with specific examples

• Annex 5. Data collection instruments

- Interview Guide for COPEH LAC Leaders
- Web-Based Survey for all of COPEH LAC Members
- Questionnaire for COPEH LAC's strategic allies

GUIA DE ENTREVISTA A LIDERES COPEH LAC

1) A su criterio, cuál es el logro más importante de la fase II? Explicar por qué

2) A su criterio, cuál ha sido el aspecto donde han quedado las mayores brechas dentro de lo que COPEH LAC se propuso hacer en la fase II? Explicar razones para considerarlo así.

3) El proyecto de la fase II habla del propósito de llegar a tomadores de decisiones y sociedad civil. A su criterio, cuál a sido el nivel de éxito de COPEH LAC en llegar a dichos actores? Dar ejemplos concretos

4) Otra meta importante que se propuso la fase II fue influir en las políticas públicas. A su criterio, cual ha sido el éxito que han tenido al respecto? Por favor brindar ejemplos concretos.

5) Para COPEH LAC, que significa "sostenibilidad" y qué del proyecto es lo que buscan que sea sostenible?

6) Según su criterio, sobre qué aspectos se debe enfocar COPEH LAC en la siguiente fase? Ej. Debe continuar tal y como está ahora? Deben hacerse cambios sustanciales a las estrategias? Etc.

7) En los documentos del proyecto se hace énfasis en el modelo descentralizado y autónomo de los nodos como un logro. Sin embargo, no se explica por qué tiene que ser descentralizado y ni tampoco hay un análisis de los "trade-offs" entre una red centralizada vs una descentralizada. A su criterio, existen "trade-offs" en el modelo organizativo de COPEH-LAC?

8) A su criterio, cual ha sido la contribución de COPEH LAC a la "evolución" del enfoque de ECOSALUD? Por favor dar ejemplos concretos

9) A su criterio, cuál ha sido el nivel de éxito de COPEH LAC en "institucionalizar " el enfoque de ECOSALUD? Por favor dar ejemplos concretos

Encuesta implementada via Web para los Miembros de COPEH LAC

1. ¿Hasta qué grado ha contribuido COPEH LAC en construir conocimiento regional y capacidades en Ecosalud? Señale una sola opción

_____COPEH LAC ha contribuido mucho en construir conocimiento regional y capacidades en Ecosalud.

_____COPEH LAC ha contribuido de manera moderada pero significativa a construir conocimiento regional y capacidades en Ecosalud.

_____COPEH LAC no ha contribuido de manera significativa a construir conocimiento regional y capacidades en Ecosalud.

2. ¿Cómo se contribuyó a construir conocimiento regional y capacidades?

_____A través de intercambios de colaboración en actividades con miembros de la red.

_____A través de la producción académica.

_____A través de actividades de entrenamiento/capacitación.

_____No se contribuyó a construir conocimiento o capacidades

3. Liste y explique brevemente las principales actividades de desarrollo de conocimiento y capacidades de COPEH LAC en las que usted ha participado

4. ¿Cuantos artículos o reportes ha publicado en el campo de Ecosalud desde que participa en COPEH LAC?

_____0

_____1 a 5

_____5 a 10

_____Más de 10

5. Liste artículos o reportes que Ud. ha publicado o está en vía de publicación en el campo de Ecosalud, desde que participa en COPEH LAC. Si fueron publicados en revistas indexadas, por favor anotar la bibliografía completa

6. ¿Ha participado en la institucionalización de ecosalud en actividades académicas de pre o postgrado (o sea en el desarrollo de nueva curricula que incorpore ecosalud, en materias, cursos o programas donde ecosalud constituya un componente clave)?

_____Si.

No.

7. ¿Considera que COPEH LAC es un actor reconocido en la región en el campo temático de salud y ambiente (incluyendo salud colectiva y desarrollo sostenible)?

Concuerdo plenamente

Ha realizado avances ante ciertas audiencias

Tiene una proyección externa limitada

8. ¿Cómo se contribuyó a construir el enfoque y campo de Ecosalud fuera del ámbito académico?

A través de influencia en la fijación de políticas y prácticas públicas.

A través de actividades de extensión fuera del ámbito académico (organizaciones sociales, con decisores políticos, educación popular, etc.)

No se contribuyó a construir el campo de Ecosalud fuera del ámbito académico.

9. A futuro ¿cuáles son las cuestiones que COPEH LAC debe considerar para su fortalecimiento y sostenibilidad en la región?

A través de influencia en la fijación de políticas y/o prácticas públicas.

A través de actividades de extensión fuera del ámbito académico (organizaciones sociales, educación popular, etc.)

A través de mayor producción académica

A través de actividades de entrenamiento y capacitación

A través de la institucionalización de ecosalud en los programas nacionales y/o regionales

A través del fortalecimiento de los lazos internos de colaboración

A través del fortalecimiento de los lazos externos de colaboración

No sabe/NC

10. En los próximos dos años ¿cómo considera que el programa Ecosalud de IDRC debe contribuir a construir y consolidar el campo de Ecosalud en América Latina y el Caribe? Explique y/o liste brevemente

Cuestionario para Aliados Estratégicos de COPEH LAC

Estimada/o Colega,

Su nombre ha sido proporcionado por COPEH LAC como un profesional externo a la comunidad de práctica, pero con quien se ha tenido lazos dentro de las actividades de la comunidad. El IDRC, agencia financiadora del proyecto, ha comisionado una evaluación externa y distintos actores relevantes están siendo contactados para obtener información e impresiones sobre la comunidad de práctica. El propósito exclusivo de la evaluación externa es colaborar a construir aprendizajes para COPEH LAC y el programa de Ecosalud de IDRC.

El enfoque de esta evaluación es saber cómo la Comunidad ha contribuido a desarrollar capacidades en Ecosalud y conocimiento regional y por lo tanto, contribuido al desarrollo, sostenibilidad y evolución del enfoque y del campo de Ecosalud. Para lograr esto, nos gustaría conocer su opinión.

Por lo tanto, le solicitamos que por favor completen la encuesta adjunta a fin de conocer sus opiniones y su percepción sobre COPEH LAC. Le agradecemos de antemano sus respuestas, y por favor tengan en cuenta que ellas permanecerán anónimas dentro del conjunto de la evaluación. De ser posible, le pedimos que por favor completen el cuestionario antes del *19 de febrero.*

Sus comentarios son muy valiosos e importantes para nosotros y para la evaluación en su conjunto. Muchas gracias por dedicar su tiempo a participar en esta encuesta. No dude en contactarme si tienen alguna duda o pregunta.

Desde ya muchas gracias,

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EVALUACION FINAL

COPEH LAC

- ¿Tienen alguna relación de intercambio, trabajo, apoyo con COPEH LAC? ¿O solo interés en el trabajo de COPEH LAC?

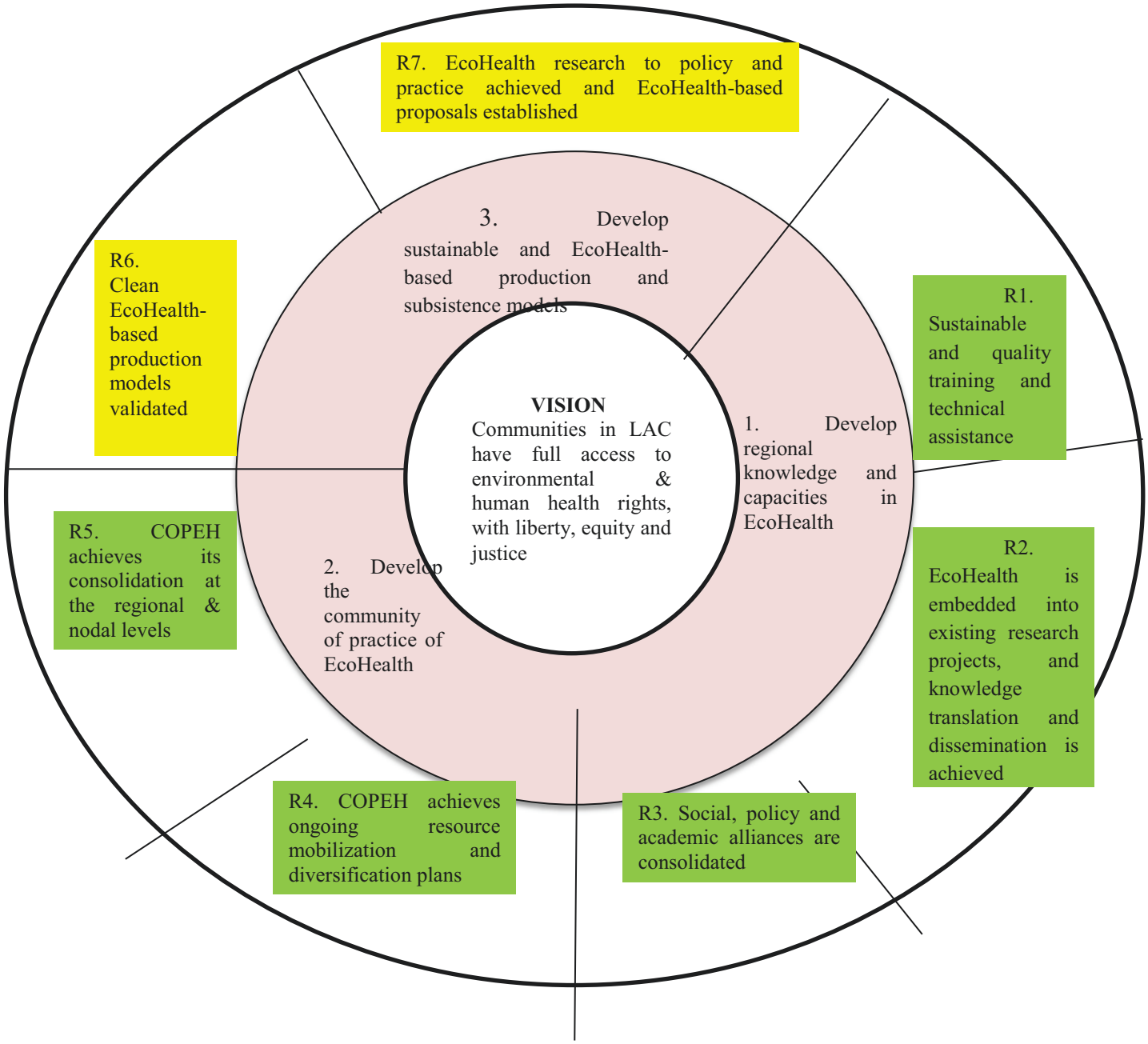
- ¿En que han trabajado en conjunto con COPEH LAC? ¿Temas, proyectos?

- ¿Qué influencia ha tenido COPEH LAC y el enfoque de EcoSalud en el trabajo o visión de su institución?

- ¿Tiene su institución alguna alianza estratégica con COPEH LAC (a nivel nodo, a nivel proyectos o a nivel regional)?

- ¿Cómo visualizan su trabajo a futuro en relación con COPEH LAC y con el enfoque de EcoSalud?

- **Annex 6.COPEH LAC Vision, strategic objectives and outcomes 2010-2015**



1,2,3	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES		SECONDARY STRATEGIC OUTCOMES		PRIMARY STRATEGIC OUTCOMES