

The Amazon and Tropical Forests: Its Global Implications and Needed Urgent Actions

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The functioning of tropical forests has global implications. Funding the generation of new knowledge or the synthesis of existing knowledge is urgent for the Amazon and the world's tropical forests through recognizing local communities and Indigenous Peoples' differences in governance, cultural diversity, ways of knowing, practices, stewardship, and territorial configuration. The Amazon and Tropical Forests Collaborative Research Action (CRA), launching in 2024 through the Belmont Forum is led by the InterAmerican Institute of Global Change Research (IAI) and São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP). The CRA aims to coordinate actions and projects with a transdisciplinary approach to address the similar challenges faced in Amazonia and other tropical forests including climate change, deforestation, alternative agricultural practices, land tenure, illegal activities, water contamination, recovery of indigenous peoples and local communities' knowledge and practices to develop transdisciplinary solutions with local impact.

The transdisciplinary approach that the Belmont Forum promotes starts with the construction of the CRA in itself. The strategy encompassed six scoping workshops with participants worldwide but focusing on the regions with tropical forests and with targeted audiences. As a result, ten thematic areas were identified and consolidated into four primary themes for the call text: 1) Reduce deforestation, sustainable development, and bioeconomy; 2) Ecosystem Functioning and Services, and Health; 3) Violence and Essential Services; and 4) Climate Change Science and Climate Justice. The scoping process also yielded thirteen key recommendations to ensure effective and equitable CRA implementation; spanning coordination, the promotion of transdisciplinary research, the necessity for research permits, or contingent scenarios that may hamper the execution of the proposals. In response, the application process includes specific requirements of both the applicants and funders (e.g., deconstructing "participation" in application materials and including non-academic experts within the review process). This talk will introduce the Belmont Forum and an overview of the upcoming funding opportunity around the Amazon and tropical forests.