In search of peri-urban sustainability: building the inter and transdisciplinary perspective from socio-ecological systems.

Peri-urban spaces offer various ecosystem services (ES) related to the ecosystem's functioning (e.g., provision, regulation, support, and cultural ES). However, the use and exploitation of these spaces are influenced by the decisions made by social actors at various organizational levels. These dynamics of change expand to various spatial and temporal scales, even in broad rural-urban gradients. Therefore, it is important to consider peri-urban territories as socio-ecological systems (SES) that are complex, evolving, and adaptive. These territories change over time and space under the influence of various actors and internal and external pressure factors. To study them effectively, an inter and transdisciplinary SES approach is essential. This approach integrates the views from social and ecological sciences to describe, analyze, and study the complexities that arise in these territories. By doing so, we can contribute to understanding current and past socio-ecological problems and reflect on future sustainability, particularly in relation to ES. To achieve this, we propose to bring together interventions that narrate various research experiences developed in Latin American countries under the inter and transdisciplinary perspective. This idea reinforces the argument that an integrated vision is needed to understand the complexity of these territories, articulating views from different disciplines and collaborating with other sectors of society and knowledge. It is also crucial to understand the thematic diversity of these territories, such as cultural tourism, ecotourism, agroforestry systems, green infrastructure, etc., analytically, theoretically, and methodologically for its study. Furthermore, we must strengthen international and inter-institutional collaboration networks to achieve this. This session aims to reflect on ways to achieve sustainability or its multiple forms in peri-urban territories through the understanding of ES and their socio-ecological dynamics.