

→ Approved by the member assembly on 26 March 2018 in Paris, Sorbonne University

## **By-laws**

### of the DFG Research Unit RESPECT

For their co-operation within the framework of the Research Unit, their members agree on the following by-laws

#### **§ 1 The bodies of RESPECT**

The bodies of the **Research Unit (RU)** are  
the **Member Assembly (MA)**,  
the **Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)**,  
the **Local Advisory Board (LAB)**,  
the **speaker and his deputy**.

The **Member Assembly (MA)** consists of all project leaders and the members of the Local Advisory Board (LAB); it discusses upcoming issues and regulates them in binding decisions with a simple majority. The MA should meet twice a year. The speaker invites to the MA with a provisional agenda at least 2 weeks beforehand. A MA has to be arranged, if a third of all project leaders apply for it.

The **Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)** consists of the speaker of the RU, his deputy and the speakers of the subprograms (A and B). The SAB ensures the ongoing information flow within the subprograms and between them and the speaker. He advises the speaker in all matters of general interest and can also take decisions in such matters. The SAB shall meet at the invitation of the speaker or if at least half of the other SAB members request it. Voting via e-mail in the SAB is possible. The SAB decides in particular about the use of the central funds. The local coordinator can be consulted for the SAB sessions.

The **Local Advisory Board (LAB)** consists of the local coordinator and the postdoctoral staff of the projects, who work for a longer period at site and are willing to undertake appropriate coordination tasks. The members of the LAB are appointed by the speaker after referral of the SAB. Chairman of the LAB is the local coordinator in Ecuador. The LAB should meet at least quarterly, videoconferencing is possible. The task of the LAB is to advise on local issues and to promote the flow of information between on-site working researchers and between them, the local scientific and non-

university cooperation partners as well as the institutions responsible for the infrastructure. The LAB should maintain contact with the speaker.

The **speaker**, together with the responsible university administration and in coordination with the DFG, conducts the RU's business and also represents it externally. He ensures the implementation of the resolutions of MA, SAB and LAB. He invites to the sessions and chairs them. In coordination with the speaker, the local coordinator represents the interests of the RU in Ecuador.

In urgent cases, the speaker can make binding decisions for the RU after hearing the available members of the SAB. He has to advocate his decisions at the next meeting of the SAB and the MA. The deputy spokeswoman supports the speaker if necessary and represents him in the event of a hindrance.

## **§ 2 Rights and duties of the subproject leaders and their employees**

The subproject leaders are responsible for the appropriate use of the funds allocated to the subproject by the DFG.

Applications for the funds allocated by the DFG for specific purposes can be made at any time via the office of the speaker with the forms available in the data warehouse ([www.tropicalmountainforest.org](http://www.tropicalmountainforest.org)). In the case of advanced and settlement payment, the corresponding deadline specifications of the speaker university must be observed and met.

The sub-project leaders inform their employees before starting their field work in Ecuador about special regional characteristics, travel options as well as the work and daily routine on the stations and on the importance of the "Station Use Agreements" (see § 3).

All scientists, students and other persons working in a project of the RU are obliged to promote the reputation of the RU to the best of their ability and to refrain from counterproductive activities. In particular, compliance with the use of biological material stipulated in the research permits, compliance with environmental law and import and export regulations are pointed out.

## **§ 3 Use of the stations and their facilities**

Center of the scientific fieldwork of the RU are the stations ECSF in the MRF (first phase) and additionally Laipuna in MDF in the second phase (both NCI) as well as the associated terrain and the core plots in Bombuscaro, Copalinga and Cajanuma. In order to generate synergies the use of the core plots is mandatory.

The use of the stations and their terrain is governed by the "Station Use Agreements" issued by NCI, which must be signed and respected by all those who work there.

#### **§ 4 Entry into Force**

These bylaw rules of procedure shall enter into force upon the decision of the MA.