

Bylaw

of the DFG Research Unit RESPECT

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

§ 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 **spokeswoman** and the **deputy speaker**.

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 spokeswoman 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 spokeswoman of the RU, the deputy speaker and the spokespersons of the subprogrammes (A and B). The SAB ensures the ongoing information flow within the subprogrammes and between them and the spokeswoman. The SAB advises the spokeswoman in all matters of general interest and can also take decisions in such matters. The SAB shall meet at the invitation of the spokeswoman 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 subprojects, who work for a longer period at site and is willing to undertake appropriate coordination tasks. The members of the LAB are appointed by the spokeswoman 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 spokeswoman.

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

In urgent cases, the spokeswoman can make binding decisions for the RU after hearing the available members of the SAB. She has to advocate her decisions at the next meeting of the SAB and the MA. The deputy speaker supports the spokeswoman if necessary and represents her 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). In the case of advanced and settlement payment, the corresponding deadline specifications of the speaker university must be observed and met.

The subproject 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 and Laipuna in MDF in the second phase (both NCI) as well as the associated terrain and the core plots in Bombuscaro, Zamora 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.