



Call for symposium proposals

Science Conference “Living territories for a sustainable development”

<https://livingterritories2018.cirad.fr>

Montpellier, France, 22-24 January 2018

Conference rationale and purpose

With the organization of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, the adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in New-York city and the signature of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, significant diplomatic and political achievements have been reached in 2015. A challenging global framework for sustainable development has been renewed. We are now moving towards identifying concrete actions to be implemented at different scales, from local to global. As such, place-based or territorial development is certainly likely to play a major role. Territorial development strategies build on the engagement and empowerment of local actors and articulate and integrate the various sectorial policies. They consider the interaction among multiple levels and seek to link and balance local imperatives and needs with nationally planned actions and global agenda.

Within this overall context, an International Science Conference on “Living Territories for a Sustainable Development” will take place in Montpellier (France). The event is organized under the auspices of CIRAD in liaison with INRA, IRD, AgroParisTech, IAMM and Agropolis International. Other collaborating institutions of the Conference organization will be AFD, CGIAR CRP “Policies, Institutions and Markets”, GFAR, GIZ, NEPAD, RIMISP, UNDP, with the support from the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the French Ministry of Agriculture.

With science as the core entry point, the Conference will also give particular attention to policies, human and institutional capacity, financing and local action/innovation.

Conference structure

The Conference will be composed of plenary and parallel sessions (mini symposia). The Chair will solicit plenary speakers and mini symposium organizers to address conference themes. Break and lunch times will be arranged so as to optimise formal and informal networking. Please note that side-events may also be arranged during the Conference.

Conference Theme and Objectives

We live in a globalized world, where the wealth growth comes along with a highly uneven distribution of it, among and within countries, and a strong uncertainty on renewable resources availability, leading to inequalities, social tensions and political and environmental crisis. While no panacea, territories offer the advantage of being places of coordination between actors, where new forms of governance can be



designed and implemented: by integrating environmental, social and economic objectives, addressing trade-offs and by strengthening the capacity of multiple stakeholders to coordinate action and set common goals, territorial approaches could contribute to sustainable development.

Following the belief that there won't be peace nor prosperity, including in the urban world, without living and flourishing rural communities, the Conference will showcase the importance of rural territories and of their interactions with urban areas to the achievement of SDGs, both locally and globally. Think and act locally in regard to act globally to the benefit of sustainable development is a political project: it aims to reduce social and economic inequalities, including generational and gender-related disparities, and to address environment concerns. The Conference will also set the scene of a shared agenda for research and action.

Three specific objectives are identified, namely:

- i. To highlight new scientific knowledge on territorial approaches to rural development, including urban-rural relationships.
- ii. To showcase successful territorial innovations and projects including organisational and institutional reforms
- iii. To analyse and question the conditions of success for territorial development, especially within the context of the implementation of the SDGs

Conference Participants

200 high-level speakers and participants are expected from all over the world, with strong attendance of developing countries. Key actors from these countries will be invited, with their participation being sponsored when needed. The conference intends to stimulate and facilitate discussions and dialogue between scientists and practitioners including policy makers. Young Scientist Travel Grants will support participation of PhD students and young postdoctoral scientists (see website for more information).

Call for symposium sessions

We invite Symposium proposals for this Conference, which will feature four time slots for up to four parallel symposia, all on Tuesday 23 January. 90 minutes (1.5 hrs) are allocated to each slot, with four speakers (maximum). If needed, symposium proposals may apply for a double time slot, which will eventually reduce the number of sessions.

Proposals are expected to contribute to the previous three objectives, while contributing to set the scene for a shared agenda for research and innovation. To maximise the benefits of the conference, all symposium organizers are asked to ensure that their session is outcome focused, both in terms of territorial development achievements and in terms of future research and development action.

Beyond these objectives, the sessions should feed the following two themes. These themes are not mutually exclusive; research and innovation priorities may fit under one or two of the themes. They are to be considered as a general guideline for submission.

Innovation, coordination and regulation

As connection arenas between public services and collective actions, territories offer an incentive framework for innovation. Access to renewable resources, labour, production and trade are part of a local system of social relationships and powers: they foster or limit dynamics of cooperation, coordination,



information. The various forms that territorial governance may adopt are at the core of the territories' ability to innovate and provide new institutional and organisational arrangements in support of sustainable development.

Contributions are especially expected to discuss community-based actions (cooperatives, farmer associations, etc.) and their role in the provision of new rules, norms and acts towards territorial development. For example, territory plays a key role in shaping the contribution and the impact of value chain changes on sustainable development. It may stimulate or hamper innovation and coordination processes towards addressing the conciliation and trade-offs between sustainability challenges and economic and trade dynamics.

Contributions may also address the way new coordination patterns among stakeholders allow to envisage conflict resolution and strengthen regulation, as well as they are also likely to sometimes foster social tensions and exclusion. Finally, contributions on the methods and tools designed and implemented for territorial development are very welcome.

Territorial development and globalization

This theme addresses multi-level territorial governance mechanisms. Territories are spaces for coordination between scattered and asymmetric stakeholders, sometimes driven by divergent stakes, which bring together public and private interests and actions. However, they question the consistency of actions on a wider scale, the way territorial development may contribute to it and the trade-offs to be addressed. They represent an essential link in articulating local, national and international actions and policies.

Contributions are expected to discuss the interactions between government, local and regional authorities, civil society, firms, NGOs, producers' organizations, international players, etc. and their ability to invent innovative forms of place-based collective action and public policies. Contributions should in particular focus on the articulation between local, regional, national governments and their role in fostering and supporting multi-actor partnerships. Finally, they are also expected to address the way territorial approaches confront and articulate with network-based approaches (circulations, migrations, mobility, health-related issues).

Acceptance criteria

The Scientific Committee will review the content of the symposium before acceptance or refusal. Acceptance criteria are as follows:

- Transversality, Innovation

Living Territories 2018 welcomes original, high quality research and innovation contributions that advance the state of the art in their field. All symposium proposals will be evaluated not only for their technical merit but also for their accessibility to an interdisciplinary audience and their contribution to a transversal thinking. Works that transcend thematic, geographic, and institutional boundaries are especially encouraged.

The format is free, which means proposals may not be restricted to keynote speeches. Any type of participative and collaborative ways of exchanging and building knowledge and partnership will be examined.

Symposium proposals whose contributions are not restricted to a pre-existing network and foster cross-institutional cooperation will be highly welcome.

- Outcomes

LVT2018 fully encourages symposia that focus on the outcomes of their session, either from a scientific perspective (research agenda) or a development perspective (impact).



Symposium proposals should contain the following information:

- title;
- name, affiliation, e-mail address and a short CV of the organizers,
- a 1-page or 2-page description of the topics to be addressed, including timeliness and relevance to the conference themes and general objectives;
- format of the symposium (innovations welcome!);
- names, affiliation and e-mail address of proposed speakers and titles of papers.

Please pack everything together in a single pdf document.

We fully encourage PhD students to participate to the Conference.

All speakers and chairs will have to register to the Conference. Please note that the organisers will not be able to support travel or accommodation expenses: session leaders will have to ensure the financial faisability of their session.

Please send proposals to livingterritories2018@cirad.fr

Key Dates:

- Deadline for submission of symposium proposals: 7 September 2017
- Deadline for informing successful proposals: 5 October 2017

Location:

The Corum: International Conference Center, Esplanade Charles De Gaulle, 34000 Montpellier
<http://www.montpellier-events.com/Le-Corum/Presentation>