

Reflecting on the role of local context and collaboration in transdisciplinary development research

Convener:

Fiona Lambe, Stockholm Environment Institute, fiona.lambe@sei-international.org

Governments, research organisations and social innovators are increasingly emphasising the need for collaborative research and the co-production of knowledge to inform the design and delivery of development interventions. However, asymmetry still exists in how relationships are built, how research questions are framed, how data is gathered and to whom (and in what way) results are communicated. Together with partners, the Stockholm Environment Institute's Behaviour and Choice Initiative has for the past three years, been piloting innovative methods for embedding people and context in the development research process, with empirical work conducted mostly in the East African region. This panel session will draw on some of the insights generated by the Initiative to stimulate discussion with panellists and the audience.

We welcome papers that provide concrete examples of where transdisciplinary, collaborative approaches were used in low income settings to effectively capture local perspectives. Following individual presentations the session organisers will invite panellists to reflect on how collaboration and local participation have shaped their research process and on the challenges involved in co-producing knowledge.