

Reconceptualizing Bioeconomy: From the Hegemonic Vision to Diverse Economies and Economies-others for Life - Advocating for a Resilient and Just Future in Colombia

Authors : Alexander Rincón Ruiz

Abstract : This article is based on an exhaustive review and interdisciplinary effort spanning three years. It involved interviews, dialogues, discussion panels, and collective work on various visions of bio-economy in Colombia. The dialogue included government institutions, universities, local communities, activist groups, research institutes, the productive sector, and politicians, integrating perspectives such as Latin American environmental thought, complexity theory, modern visions, local worldviews (Afro-Colombian, indigenous, peasant), decoloniality, political ecology, ecological economics, and environmental economies. This work highlighted the need to redefine the traditional bio-economy concept, typically focused on markets and biotechnology, and to revisit the original idea of a bio-economy as an 'economy for life'. In a country as diverse as Colombia—both biophysically and in its varied relationships with the territory—this redefinition is crucial. It emphasizes alternative logics of well-being related to resilience, care, and cooperation, reflecting Indigenous, Afro-Colombian, and peasant worldviews. This article is significant for proposing, for the first time, a viable approach to diverse and alternative economies for life tailored to the Colombian context. It represents not only academic work but also a political commitment to inclusion and plurality, aligning with the Colombian context and potentially extendable to other regions.

Keywords : ecological economics, decoloniality, complexity, Biodiversity

Conference Title : ICPEBE 2025 : International Conference on People, Ecosystems and Built Environment

Conference Location : Paris, France

Conference Dates : December 30-31, 2025