

## PAN-tropical investigation of bioGeochemistry and Ecological Adaptation (PANGEA)

### Hybrid Community Engagement Workshop in Panama

#### Meeting Organizers

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**Summary of Workshop Activities.** The PANGEA Hybrid Panama Workshop took place on April 26th, 2024 in Panama City, Panama. The 4-hour hybrid event occurred in English with simultaneous translation in Spanish. It was attended by 11 in-person participants, including representatives from the Embera, Guna, and Wounaan Indigenous territories. Representatives from Indigenous-led research initiatives GeoIndigena and the Center for Studies and Development of the Emberá-Wounaan Districts (CEW) also attended. The event was virtually attended by 11 participants from 8 research institutions across 7 countries: UCLA (USA), Utrecht University (Netherlands), UNAM (Mexico), ETH Zurich (Switzerland), GFZ-Potsdam (Germany), Penn State University (USA), McGill University (Canada), and the University of Energy and Natural Resources (Ghana).

The workshop objective to align the PANGEA scoping campaign with the needs of Indigenous representatives from Panama's tropical forests was successfully initiated through presentations about PANGEA research objectives and open discussion with participants. Following welcoming remarks and introductions, the workshop agenda included a presentation on PANGEA research objectives and the scoping campaign process. Following the overview presentation, participants demonstrated a strong interest in the campaign and discussed ideas for how to contribute to and realize the advantages of a pantropical field campaign. Key issues discussed included the need for monitoring disturbances like fire and invasive species that threaten Indigenous territories. The workshop emphasized the importance of consulting and collaborating with Indigenous territories, recognizing their sovereignty, and involving them as active partners in research activities. Discussions focused on transparent data-sharing practices, engagement with local communities for data validation, and developing protocols for requesting permission to conduct research in Indigenous territories. Collaboration with inter-governance organizations like the National Coordinating Body of Indigenous Peoples in Panama (COONAPIP) was discussed as a critical step for successful engagement. The PANGEA Panama Hybrid Workshop was a step towards fostering meaningful partnerships, integrating local knowledge, and co-creating protocols that respect Indigenous sovereignty and build local capacity.



Representatives in Panama gather in a conference room with virtual participants on Zoom