



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

Clean energy and other green tales

Country: Colombia

Online possible: potentially, for people who are not fluent in Spanish



Project description

Peasant communities mobilizing against hydropower challenge the idea that such projects are a source of green energy with little environmental and social impact. These communities must face the tension between maintaining free-flowing rivers and rural economies or satisfying the demands for producing 'clean energy' to sustain economic growth while reducing carbon emissions as urgent climate action.

This research project invites a critical reflection on green arguments to justify hydroelectricity production. It seeks to better understand the impact of compensation measures, reforestation projects, and payment for environmental services in the context of a hydroelectric project in the La Miel River in the province of Caldas, Colombia.

Central questions are:

- How do hydroelectricity companies use green arguments to justify their work?
- How do conservation projects impact the way of living of peasant communities?
- How do peasant communities perceive conservation projects related to hydroelectric projects?

This research will be closely related to a PhD research from the Riverhood project. Students who want to do fieldwork must be fluent in Spanish. For students who are not fluent in Spanish, it is also possible to design a research methodology including literature review, interviews, and discourse analysis. These options can be discussed with the supervisors. The overall research approach should be embedded in political ecology. For further information visit: <https://movingrivers.org/>

Project details

Group: Water Resources Management (WRM)

Project type: MSc Thesis

Begin date: April 2024 (preparatory phase) September 2024 (Fieldwork – if applicable)

End date: March 2025

Skills: Fluency in Spanish for students who want to do fieldwork

Contact

Supervisor(s): Ana María Arbeláez-Trujillo PhD Riverhood, Rutgerd Boelens, Jeroen Vos.

Examiners: To be decided

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