

## **IDRC announced the seven winners of the Communicable Disease in LAC: Ecohealth Research for Policy and Action initiative**

IDRC today announced 7 recipients of the [Communicable Disease in LAC: Ecohealth Research for Policy and Action initiative](#), for transdisciplinary, community-based research on three infectious diseases: malaria, dengue and Chagas' disease. IDRC is implementing this initiative of more than US\$ 2 million over a three-year period, in collaboration with the Organization of American States (OAS), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The ecology and transmission of these diseases, which disproportionately affect the poor, are closely related to environmental resource mismanagement and social, cultural and economic activities. To overcome them therefore requires integrated environmental, social, and economic approaches and participatory research processes that include communities as well as decision-makers.

More than 50 concept notes were submitted to IDRC following a [call](#) issued in August 2006. The winning projects were selected on the basis of scientific merit and relevance from 11 full proposals developed by multi-disciplinary teams.

### **Information on the 7 projects:**

- **Biological, social, economic and ecological determinants of Malaria in intermittent rice irrigation systems and sustainable development of the local ecosystem for better vector control in the Pítipo district, Lambayeque region, Peru**  
Institution: Ministry of Public Health - DIGESA  
Location: Peru, Andean region, Lambayeque
- **Design, implementation and evaluation of an eco-bio-socially-based intervention strategy for dengue, Cali, Colombia**  
Institution: Epidemiology and Population Health Group (GESP) Of the Universidad del Valle (University of the Valley)  
Location: Colombia, Andean region, Cali - Valle del Cauca
- **Eco-epidemiology and control of *Triatoma infestans* and Chagas disease transmission in the Gran Chaco region**  
Institution: Healthy World Foundation  
Location: Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay
- **Malaria and land use change: strengthening action for improved Health and Conservation in Guayana, Venezuela**  
Institution: Venezuelan Association for Natural Areas' Conservation (ACOANA) and others  
Location: Venezuela, Amazon region, Guayanés shield, river basin of Caura River
- **Malaria transmission and natural resource management in the Ecuadorian Amazon: Identifying ecosystem determinants of malaria risk for appropriate and sustainable control**  
Institution: University of San Francisco  
Location: Ecuador, Amazon region

- **Long-term management of risk factors for domestic *T. Dimidiata* reinfestation from peri-domicile and the wild environment.**  
Institution: San Carlos University  
Location: Guatemala, Municipalities of Quesada and Yupiltepeque de Jutiapa
- **Risk of transmission of *T. Cruzi* in Equadorian Amazon (AE)**  
Institution: Integral Solidarity Assistance Foundation (ASI)  
Location: Ecuador, Amazon region, the provinces of Sucumbios, Orellana, Pastaza, Morona and Zamora