



Digging into sediments and microbes for nature conservation: Identifying the drivers of ecosystem processes for spatial conservation planning



DiSeMiNation is about to go for the third field trip (mid February to early March 2018) in San Andres (Colombia). We are looking forward to learn about the very specific environmental settings of this Caribbean island (carbonic and micro-tidal) and its mangroves.

A successful workshop in Singapore helped us understand needs of local and regional stakeholders and opened unexpected opportunities for future collaborations in Singapore (e.g., policy briefs on mangrove protection). Upon sampling of mangrove sediments for genetic (microbes and fauna) and organic-chemical analyses in Singapore, first results provided the basis for the development of new bioinformatics tools and helped us plan future campaigns.

Some improvements were already implemented last November, when the team visited the partly protected areas of the Ajuruteua peninsula in Northern Brazil (Pará). In addition to sampling different mangrove areas, various stakeholder groups were interviewed and information on use of, and threats to, the regional mangroves was gathered.



After the second workshop of all team members of DiSeMiNation (mid of January 2018 at DSMZ, Braunschweig), we will soon be able to launch a first database on local sediment characteristics and how they relate to the regional use of mangroves, their natural resources and the services they provide.

As the mangroves of San Andres are hardly used, no stakeholder workshop is planned for this field trip. By contrast the mangroves of the South African East coast are both heavily used by local stakeholders and under anthropogenic pressure. Thus, we will investigate the perception of their use and exploitation by local and regional stakeholders during our next field trip (scheduled for April/May 2018) and the accompanying stakeholder workshop.

