# Evidences

## Study #3328

**Contributing Projects:**
- P803 - 9. Landscape Governance

**Part I: Public communications**

**Type:** OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report  
**Status:** New  
**Year:** 2019  

**Title:** FTA and PIM research informs the renewal of community forest concessions in the Maya Biosphere Reserve (Guatemala)

**Short outcome/impact statement:**

Scientific evidence generated by PIM/FTA informed technical documents of the National Council for Protected Areas and guided the evaluation process of community forest concessions, which are up for renewal, and associated deliberation. PIM and FTA generated evidence that communities can capably manage and conserve forest. This, together with strong social mobilization, resulted in the revision of the norms for granting concessions in the multiple use zone of the reserve and, based on it, the first renewal of a community concession contract (Cooperative Carmelita) in December. Contract renewal is expected to continue in 2020.
**Outcome story for communications use:**
Joint PIM/FTA research has generated scientific evidence of the socio-economic performance of community forest concessions in the Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR) in Petén, Guatemala (1) which has informed technical documents and the revision of the technical norms for concession renewal (2) by Guatemala’s Council for Protected Areas (CONAP) in September 2019 as well as the first renewal of a community concession contract (Cooperative Carmelita) in December 2019 (3). The study, led by Bioversity/ICRAF and carried out in close collaboration with CIFOR, Rainforest Alliance, the Association of Forest Communities of Petén (ACOFOP) and local partners, covered all 12 community forest concessions with an area of about 400,000 ha. While the building of critical livelihoods and business assets was evidenced for most concessions, conflicting interests and competing claims over land in the MBR persist. In 2019, ICRAF and CIFOR, together with Rainforest Alliance and ACOFOP, organized two key events around the World Bank Land & Poverty Conference in Washington to share the findings and discuss implications with key audiences at the World Bank and USAID. In addition, scientists from CIFOR were invited to contribute to the 2019 Human Development Report for Guatemala, led by UNDP, which for the first time used a territorial approach for analyzing challenges to development. This gives broader legitimacy to the struggle for land and forest rights in Guatemala, particularly the renewal of the community concessions which is due over the next few years. The research team was further invited to present their findings in international and national forums, such as the XXV IUFRO World Congress in Brazil and ACOFOP’s 30th anniversary. This has triggered debate on persistent threats in relation to the future of the MBR and the need for renewal of the community concession contracts. Continued generation of scientific evidence and engagement of PIM researchers are critical in view of emerging initiatives to create a new national park which would deprive communities from the right to extract timber in areas now under concession, as reflected in a recent proposal presented to the US Senate regarding the Mirador-Calakmul Basin Maya Security and Conservation Partnership Act of 2019, and in strong lobbying for support by the Guatemalan parliament. An ongoing study supported by PIM will shed further light into the political economy underlying conflicts over land in the MBR and options for thwarting non-science based counternarratives put forward by powerful groups in support of their vested interests.

**Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome:** <Not Defined>

**Part II: CGIAR system level reporting**

**Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies :** No

**Stage of maturity of change reported:** Stage 2

**Links to the Strategic Results Framework:**

Sub-IDOs:
- Gender-equitable control of productive assets and resources
- More productive and equitable management of natural resources

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Too early to say

**Comment:** <Not Defined>

**Geographic scope:**
- Sub-national

**Country(ies):**
- Guatemala
Key Contributors:

Contributing CRPs/Platforms:
- PIM - Policies, Institutions, and Markets
- FTA - Forests, Trees and Agroforestry

Contributing Flagships:
- FP4: Landscape dynamics, productivity and resilience

Contributing Regional programs: <Not Defined>

Contributing external partners:
- ACOFOP - Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de Petén (Guatemala)
- CONAP - Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (Guatemala)

CGIAR innovation(s) or findings that have resulted in this outcome or impact:
See below

Innovations:
- 1484 - FTA and PIM research showing the economic benefits of community forest concessions makes the case for continued community stewardship of 400,000 hectares of tropical forests in Guatemala

Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:
Joint PIM/FTA research has generated scientific evidence of the socio-economic performance of community forest concessions in the Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR) that has informed technical documents (4), the revision of technical norms for concession renewal (2) by Guatemala’s Council for Protected Areas (CONAP) in September 2019, and the renewal of the first concession contract (Cooperative Carmelita) in December 2019 for a second cycle of 25 years with continued rights to sustainable management of forest resources (3). The study, led by Bioversity/ICRAF and carried out in close collaboration with CIFOR, Rainforest Alliance, the Association of Forest Communities of Petén (ACOFOP) and local partners, covered all 12 community forest concessions with an area of about 400,000 ha. While the building of critical livelihoods and business assets was evidenced for most concessions (1), conflicting interests and competing claims over land in the MBR persist (5) which were also covered by international and national media (6, 7, 8). In 2019, ICRAF and CIFOR organized together with RA and ACOFOP two key events around the World Bank Land & Poverty Conference in Washington to share the findings and discuss implications with key audiences at the World Bank and USAID (9, 10). Additionally, scientists from CIFOR received an invitation to contribute to the 2019 Human Development Report for Guatemala, led by UNDP, which for the first time used a territorial approach for analyzing challenges to development (11). This gives broader legitimacy to the struggle for land and forest rights in Guatemala, and specifically for the renewal of the community concessions. The research team was further invited to present results in fora, such as the XXV IUFRO World Congress and ACOFOP's 30th anniversary (12, 13, 14, 15). This has triggered debate on persistent threats with regard to the future of the MBR as well as the need for renewal of the community concession contracts (7, 8, 12). Continued generation of evidence and engagement of PIM researchers is critical in view of emerging initiatives to create a new national park which would deprive communities from the sustainable extraction of timber in areas now under concession, such as a proposal presented to the US Senate for support to the Mirador-Calakmul Basin Maya Security and Conservation Partnership Act of 2019 (16) and Guatemalan initiatives of lobbying around the issue within the Parliament (13).
References cited:

Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:

**Gender relevance:** 1 - Significant
Main achievements with specific Gender relevance: Main achievements with specific Gender relevance: Gender-differentiated benefits of community forest concessions clearly established, opportunities for enhancing gender equity identified, and continuity of process secured through first renewal of a concession contract.

**Youth relevance:** 1 - Significant
Main achievements with specific Youth relevance: Main achievements with specific Youth relevance: Age-differentiated benefits of community forest concessions clearly established, opportunities for enhancing intergenerational equity identified, and continuity of process secured through first renewal of a concession contract.

**CapDev relevance:** 0 - Not Targeted

**Climate Change relevance:** 0 - Not Targeted

**Other cross-cutting dimensions:** <Not Defined>

**Other cross-cutting dimensions description:** <Not Defined>

**Outcome Impact Case Report link:** Study #3328

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