

Evidences

Study #3302

Contributing Projects:

- P663 - 5.1.1 Enhancing Tenure Security

Part I: Public communications

Type: OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report

Status: New

Year: 2019

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

Short outcome/impact statement:

Joint FTA and PIM research highlighted the socio-economic benefits from 12 community forest concessions in the Maya Biosphere Reserve in Petén, Guatemala. These findings contributed to the revision of the norms for granting concessions and the renewal of the concession contract for one of the community forest cooperatives, with the other ones expected to follow in 2020.

Outcome story for communications use:

The Maya Biosphere Reserve belongs to one of the largest tropical forests north of the Amazon, and its sustainable management is of critical interest to national and global stakeholders. In 1997, the Government of Guatemala decided to test an innovative approach for managing the reserve: community forest concessions were granted for a 25-year cycle, with the possibility of extension. Each concession is operated by a community forest enterprise responsible for sustainably managing the forest and sharing the resulting benefits among members.

In the past years several studies showed highly favorable results of the concessions on forest conservation. But little was known about the socioeconomic impact of the concessions for the communities. A joint PIM/FTA study led by Bioversity International and carried out in partnership with Rainforest Alliance, the Association of Forest Communities of Petén, local partners and CIFOR between 2014 and 2018 took place across twelve community forest concessions over 400,000 hectares. Results provide clear evidence of the socio-economic benefits accruing from the community forest enterprises, including spillover effects on local communities and the regional economy [1]. In addition, women's involvement in decision making and income generation increased at enterprise and household level.

Coupled with strong social mobilization, these results led to the revision of the norms for granting concessions in the multiple use zone of the reserve ([2], [3]) in September 2019. This, in turn, resulted in the renewal of the community concession contract of Cooperative Carmelita in December 2019 [4], [5]. Renewal of the other cooperatives' contracts is expected to follow.

Despite the achievement of this outcome, various interest groups have alternative visions for the future of the reserve. Therefore, CGIAR's continued research inputs and engagement with partners and policy processes will be critical, especially in view of emerging initiatives to create a national park which would deprive communities from the right to extract timber in areas now under concession.

Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome:

- <https://tinyurl.com/ybxekfaq>
- <https://tinyurl.com/y6urfamz>

Part II: CGIAR system level reporting

Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies : Yes

Policies contribution:

- 458 - Technical norms for renewal of forest concessions in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala

Stage of maturity of change reported: Stage 2

Links to the Strategic Results Framework:

Sub-IDOs:

- Gender-equitable control of productive assets and resources
- Increased access to productive assets, including natural resources
- More productive and equitable management of natural resources

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Yes

SRF 2022/2030 targets:

- # of hectares of forest saved from deforestation
- # of people, of which 50% are women, assisted to exit poverty

Description of activity / study: <Not Defined>

Geographic scope:

- Sub-national

Country(ies):

- Guatemala

Comments: <Not Defined>

Key Contributors:

Contributing CRPs/Platforms:

- PIM - Policies, Institutions, and Markets
- FTA - Forests, Trees and Agroforestry

Contributing Flagships:

- F5: Governance of Natural Resources

Contributing Regional programs: <Not Defined>

Contributing external partners:

- Rainforest Alliance
- 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:

- 791 - Demonstrated economic benefits of community forest concessions make the case for continued community stewardship of 400,000 hectares of tropical forests in Guatemala

Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:

The Maya Biosphere Reserve belongs to one of the largest tropical forests north of the Amazon, and its sustainable management is of critical interest to national and global stakeholders. In 1997, the Government of Guatemala decided to test an innovative approach for managing the reserve: community forest concessions were granted for a 25-year cycle. Each concession is operated by a community forest enterprise responsible for sustainably managing the forest and sharing the resulting benefits among members.

In the past years several studies showed highly favorable results of the concessions on forest conservation. But little was known about the socioeconomic impact of the concessions for the communities. A joint PIM/FTA study led by Bioversity International and carried out in partnership with Rainforest Alliance, the Association of Forest Communities of Petén, local partners and CIFOR between 2014 and 2018, took place across twelve community forest concessions over 400,000 hectares. Results provide clear evidence of the socio-economic benefits accruing from the community forest enterprises, including spillover effects on local communities and the regional economy. In addition, women's involvement in decision making and income generation increased at enterprise and household level.

This evidence informed technical documents of the National Council for Protected Areas [6] and, coupled with strong social mobilization, resulted in the revision of the norms for granting concessions in the reserve ([2], [3]) in September 2019. As a consequence, the community concession contract of Cooperative Carmelita was renewed in December 2019 for a second cycle of 25 years, with continued rights to sustainable management of forest resources [4], [5]. Renewal of the other cooperatives' contracts is expected to follow.

In 2019, ICRAF, CIFOR and partners organized two events around the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference [7] to share findings with the World Bank and USAID. CIFOR scientists were invited to contribute to the 2019 Human Development Report for Guatemala led by the United Nations Development Programme, which for the first time used a territorial approach for analyzing challenges to development. Results were also presented at the IUFRO 2019 XXV World Congress [8].

Despite the achievement of this outcome, various interest groups have alternative visions for the future of the reserve. Therefore, CGIAR's continued research inputs and engagement with partners and policy processes will be critical, especially in view of emerging initiatives to create a national park which would deprive communities from the right to extract timber in areas now under concession.

References cited:

- [1] Stoian, D., Rodas, A., Butler, M., Monterroso, I., Hodgdon, B. 2018. Forest concessions in Petén, Guatemala: A systematic analysis of the socioeconomic performance of community enterprises in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia.
<https://www.cifor.org/knowledge/publication/7163/>
- [2] Diario de Centroamérica (September 12, 2019). Official announcement of technical norms for renewal of forest concessions in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala.
<https://sv.transdoc.com/articulos/sumario-diario-de-centroamerica/Sumario-Diario-de-Centro-Amrica-Septiembre-12-Jueves/72943>
- [3] Technical norms for renewal of forest concessions in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala - Regulation No 242/2019. https://leyes.infile.com/visualizador_demo/index.php?id=79997#principio
- [4] Revista Viatori (December 18, 2019). Public announcement of renewal of Carmelita Community Forest Concession.
<http://revistaviatori.com/noticias/estado-de-guatemala-amplio-por-25-anos-mas-la-concesion-forest-al-de-carmelita/>
- [5] October 3, 2019. BBC News article referring to the community concession model under threat and the future of the Carmelita Community Forest Concession.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-49753886>
- [6] Technical Document around Monitoring and Evaluation of the Maya Biosphere Reserve Management Units, which makes explicit reference to uptake of CIFOR research (Page 10): Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas - CONAP - 2019. Sistema de Monitoreo y Evaluacion del Desempeño de las Unidades de Manejo, Establecidas en la Zona de Uso Multiple de la Reserva de la Biosfera Maya, Guatemala, Documento Tecnico No. 16-2019. Guatemala.
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/sgkaj3j7pna1vb6/Reference%20%236.%20CONAP%20Policy%20Document%20Pag%2010.pdf?dl=0>
- [7] Stoian, D., Rodas, A., Monterroso, I. 2019. Presentation "Best-bet options for ensuring tropical forest conservation and livelihoods development: Evidence from the community forest concessions in Petén, Guatemala" at World Bank Conference:
<https://www.conftool.com/landandpoverty2019/index.php?page=browseSessions&presentations=show&search=Monterroso>
- [8] Stoian, D., Rodas, A., Monterroso, I. 2019. Forest conservation and socio-economic benefits through community forest concessions: Evidence from the Maya Biosphere Reserve in Petén, Guatemala. Paper presented at the IUFRO 2019 XXV World Congress held in Curitiba, Brazil on September 29 – October 5, 2019. Pesq. Flor. Bras., Colombo, v. 39, e201902043, Special issue, p. 93.
<https://app.oxfordabstracts.com/events/691/program-app/submission/96052>

Quantification: <Not Defined>

Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:

Gender relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **Gender** relevance: Gender-differentiated benefits of community forest concessions established and opportunities for enhancing gender equity identified.

Youth relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **Youth** relevance: Age-differentiated benefits of community forest concessions established and opportunities for enhancing intergenerational equity identified.

CapDev relevance: 0 - Not Targeted

Climate Change relevance: 0 - Not Targeted

Other cross-cutting dimensions: No

Other cross-cutting dimensions description: <Not Defined>

Outcome Impact Case Report link: [Study #3302](#)

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