New Pressures on Forest and Community Lands
The Case of Latin America

Omaira Bolaños
Rights and Resources Initiative
Next Generation of Forest Agency Leaders
Oaxaca, Mexico, May 27-31, 2013
I. Global Importance of Latin America’s Forest Region

II. External Pressures on Forest and Forest Communities

III. Social Responses to External Pressures

IV. Challenges for the Forest Sector
Global Importance of Latin America’s Forest Region

- Latin America’s Forest Resources
- Indigenous Peoples and Forest communities land
• 21% of world’s forest area is in Latin América (FRA 2010)
• 40% of world’s tropical forest is in LA (Tropical Tenure Forest Assessment, 2009)
• 46% of world’s primary forest of the world (FRA 2010) – South America (264 million hectares)
• 47% of the LA lands is forest (FRA 2010, SOWF 2009)
Indigenous Peoples’ and Forest communities’ Lands

LA Forest Tenure Data

- Public: Administered by government: 36%
- Public: Designated for use by communities & indigenous peoples: 7%
- Owned by communities & indigenous peoples: 25%
- Owned by individuals & firms: 32%
External Pressures on Forest and Forest Communities

• Where do the pressures come from?
• Case examples: Guatemala and Colombia
Where do the pressures come from?

• Since 90s, Latin America became an important region for mining industry investments with focus in Peru, Chile, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and lately Guatemala.

• Renewal of mega-infrastructural projects: IIRSA and the Mesoamerica Development Integration;

• Increasing energy demands: dam construction, biofuels

• Growing Tourist industry
Pressures from Road Infrastructure

Source: Central America Megaprojects PRISMA

Integration Axes

Source: Mapa de IIRSA
Guatemala: Oil Palm and Sugar expansion for Biofuel production

Increases on:

- Areas dedicated to sugar cane: four times in the last 30 years – reaching more than 10% of the total area.

- Biofuel production (oil palm): three-fold in the last 10 years.

- Private-public & private-private partnerships and investments including Colombia (ECOPETROL), Brasil (BNDES) and Petrocaribe for the production of biofules
Guatemala: Community Forest Management

- More than 1.5 million Ha under communal tenure (about 20% of the total territory)
- 2011 National Alliance of Community Forestry Organizations: 300 community organizations and more than 75,000 individual members (about 50% of the communal lands).
- National Alliance works on political advocacy-PINPEP Law, incentives to small-scale holders
- More than 350,000 Ha of community forests are certified by the FSC (all of it under the management of community forest concessions)
Pressures in the Amazon Region

Petroleum Lots

- potential
- in demand
- in exploration
- in exploitation

Natural Protected Area

Indigenous Territory

More than 47 million Ha pending recognition (RAISG, 2012) in the Amazon Basin

More than 47 million Ha pending recognition (RAISG, 2012) in the Amazon Basin
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Símbolo</th>
<th>Área Total (ha)</th>
<th>Cruce con bosques (ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bosques Naturales (2007)</td>
<td>61.246.659</td>
<td>61.246.659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservas Forestales Ley 2ª 1959 (2005)</td>
<td>51.372.314</td>
<td>43.165.525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zonas de Reserva Campesina</td>
<td>2.176.532</td>
<td>1.394.945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Áreas de Bosque sin protección</td>
<td>10.724.314</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fuente: MAVDT, Dirección de Ecosistemas cruce del Mapa de Ecosistemas, 2007 con los siguientes Mapas disponibles en el SIG-OT a escala 1:500.000: reservas Ley 2 de 1959 (IDEAM 2005), Áreas Indígenas y Negritudes (IGAC, 2010), Áreas SNPNN (UAESPNN, 2010), Zonas de Reserva Campesina (INCODER)
Colombia: Pressure from Mining Industry

- President Juan Manuel Santos’ announced at Rio +20, the creation of “mining strategic area of 17.6 million hectares to ensure sustainable mining in a region of high biodiversity.” (Office of the President 2012).

- About 51% of Colombia's area (including Amazonia and Choco biogeographic) is entitled or required for mining (AAS 2013, mining cadastre).

- Conflicts due to the overlapping of mining industry with different categories of land use, IP’s, Afrodescendants’ and peasants’ land and pending lands recognition.
Social Responses to External Pressures

• Growing social mobilization across the region
• Bolivia: TIPNIS case
• **In Bolivia**, Indigenous Peoples marched to defend the indigenous territory and National Park Isiboro Sécure (TIPNIS) against a 300 Km highway that would cross their territory and park (2011-12).

• **In Panama**, Ngäbe-Bugle people blocked roads in two provinces on the border with Costa Rica in protest for mineral exploitation on their lands (2012).

• **In Ecuador**, IPs and civil society march to oppose plans for large-scale mining on their lands (2012).
Bolivia: TIPNIS road plans

elpaisdelasamapolas.blogspot.com
Bolivia
TIPNIS Conflict

- The National Park and Indigenous Territory Isiboro-Secure (TIPNIS), has double legal status: Protected area and indigenous territory.

- The Bolivian government re-opened the construction of the roads (with Brazilian funds) that would pass through TIPNIS, without consulting the Indigenous groups. Conflicts arise.

- The conflict led to the “Octava Marcha,” the eighth march: approximately 2,000 Indigenous leaders and their families marched 600 kms to La Paz.

- On October 24, 2011 President Morales signed Law 180, adopting measures to protect the TIPNIS

- In 2012, the conflict scaled up again as government open new proposal for constructing the road
Challenges for the Forest Sector
Challenges for the Forest Sector

• Understanding where the pressures are coming from and who makes decisions

• Understanding how international platforms like REDD can be effective to negotiate with governments the role of drivers of deforestation

• How to integrate different views of forests and the role of communities in the management and conservation of forest resources

• How to Integrate land tenure as a key component of the forest sector: *who owns land matters*
THANK YOU
GRACIAS

obolanos@rightsandresources.org
Regional Program Director, Latin America