



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
Agroforestry



Landscapes' dynamics through the lens of rural institutions

How feasible is the landscape
approach?

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Purpose

- Better understand the socio-political and institutional drivers of changes in landscapes
- Obtain results that could be analyzed and compared across landscapes
- Better identify and characterize existing bottlenecks and rooms for manoeuver
 - Better understanding for better action designing

Focus

■ Two main research objects

- *Institutions* that govern access, uses and exploitation of Natural Resources
 - Institutions can be defined as the “*humanly devised constraints that structure political, economic and social interactions*” (North 1990)
- *Social and political mechanisms* relating to the use of the ecosystem, which participate in designing specific forms of NR governance
 - Among which, related to forestry, agriculture, cattle raising, firewood collection, nature conservation, mining, etc...

Methodological choices

- Design of an original protocol
 - There is no 'one-fits-all' protocol for institutional mapping
 - From an epistemological standpoint, analyzing the same situation with 2 different objects and objectives is complex
- Mixed methods approach
 - Survey (at the landscape level)
 - Mapping institutions (conceptual mapping)
 - Assessing NR governance from the stakeholders' perspective and based on the 'Good Governance Principles'
 - Case study (at the community level)
 - In-depth analyzing institutions and social and political processes that translate into specific practices related to NR

Methodological choices



Animation of the focus group with community members in a Miskita community



The collective socio-spatial mapping of NR in a Miskita community



A 50% Women-50% Men selection of participants in a focus group (including 50-50 of facilitators)



A community member of a Miskita community presenting the socio-spatial map to others

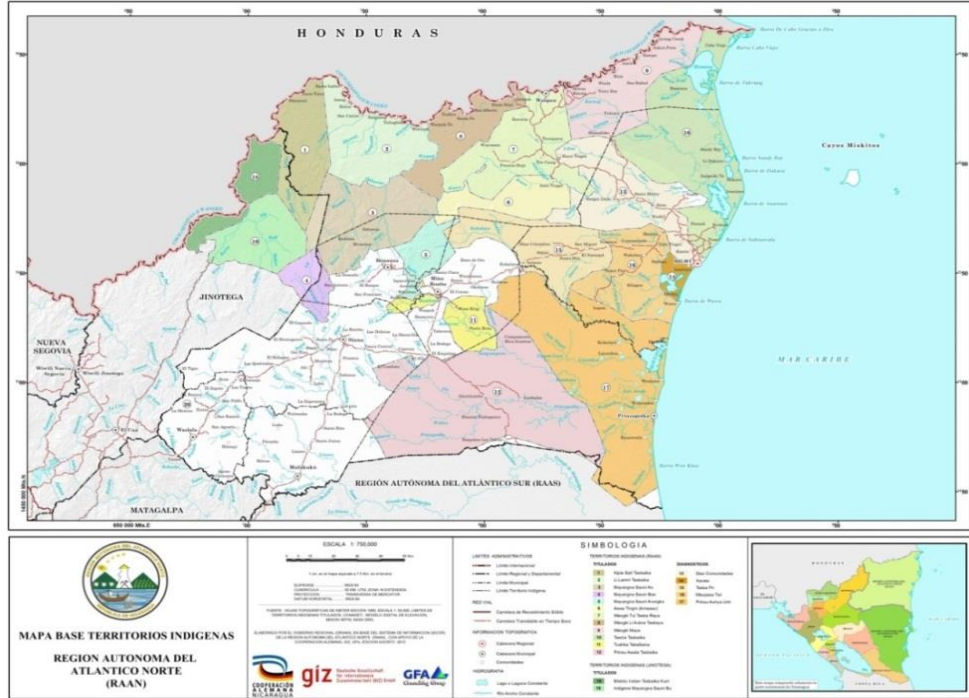
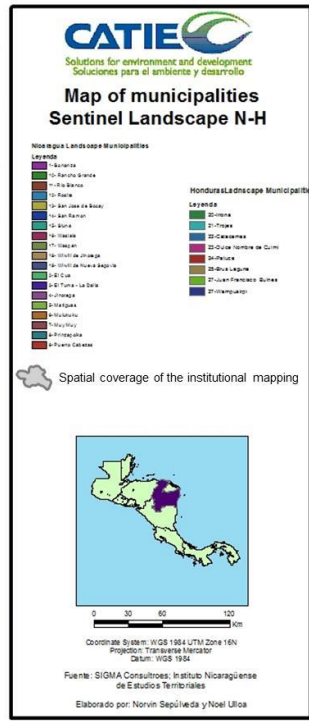
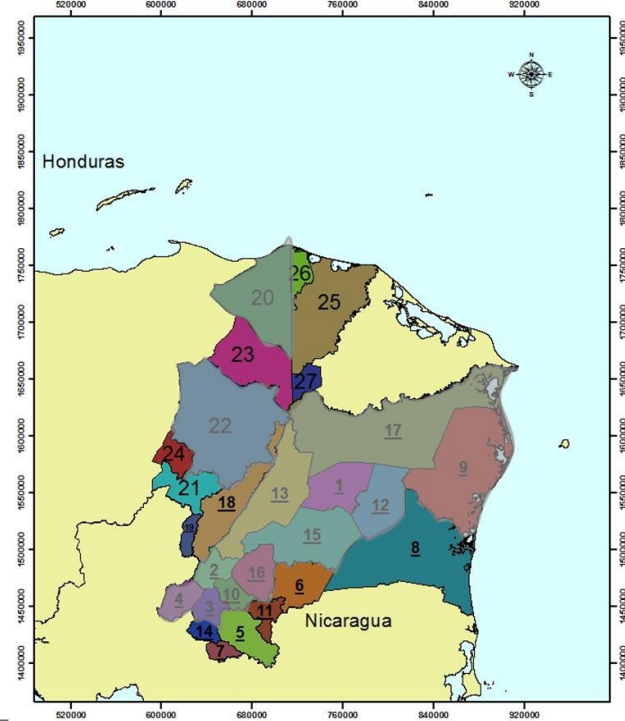
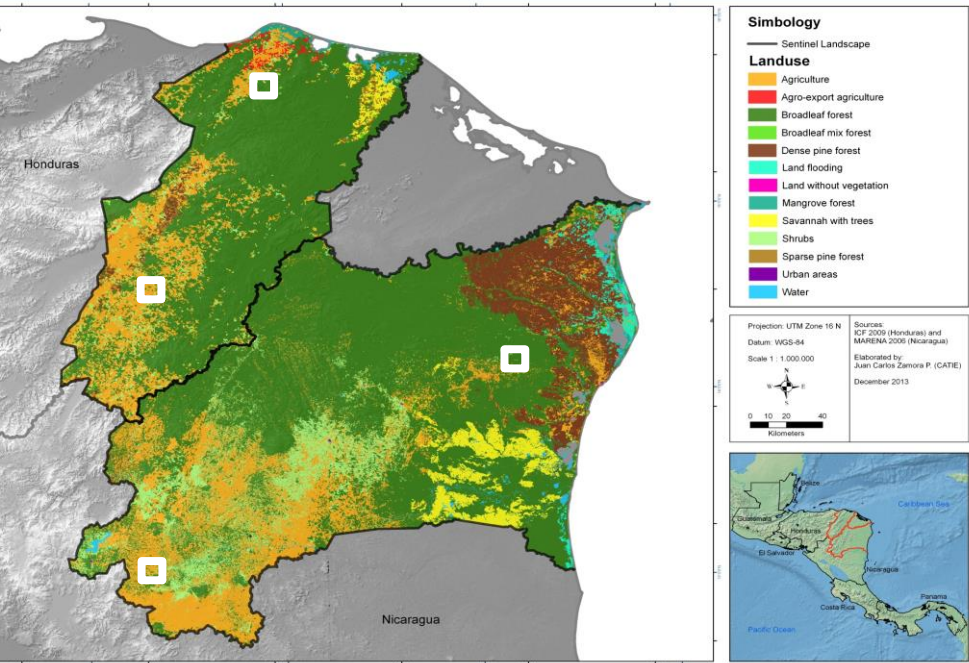


The local leader of a Miskita community presenting the key stakeholders engaged in the local decision making related to NR, and explaining who is engaged in what rule in use



Semi-direct interviews with key informants (gendered differentiated)

Landuse and vegetation types in Nicaragua - Honduras Sentinel Landscape





Insights from the
institutional
mapping in the
Nicaragua-
Honduras
Sentinel
Landscape



The landscape

■ Location



■ Major characteristics

A bi-national territory around the centerpieces of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor

- Including two Biosphere Reserves
- Home to various indigenous groups

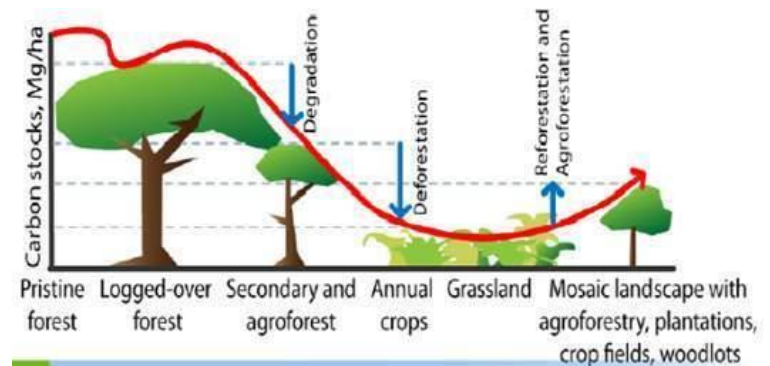
Key land uses

- Closed primary and secondary forests
- Farmland with a large diversity of production systems
 - In particular, agroforestry based on coffee and cocoa, annual crops, and cattle-raising

The landscape



The landscape was (mostly) defined, based on land-uses comprising all the states of the ‘forest curve transition’



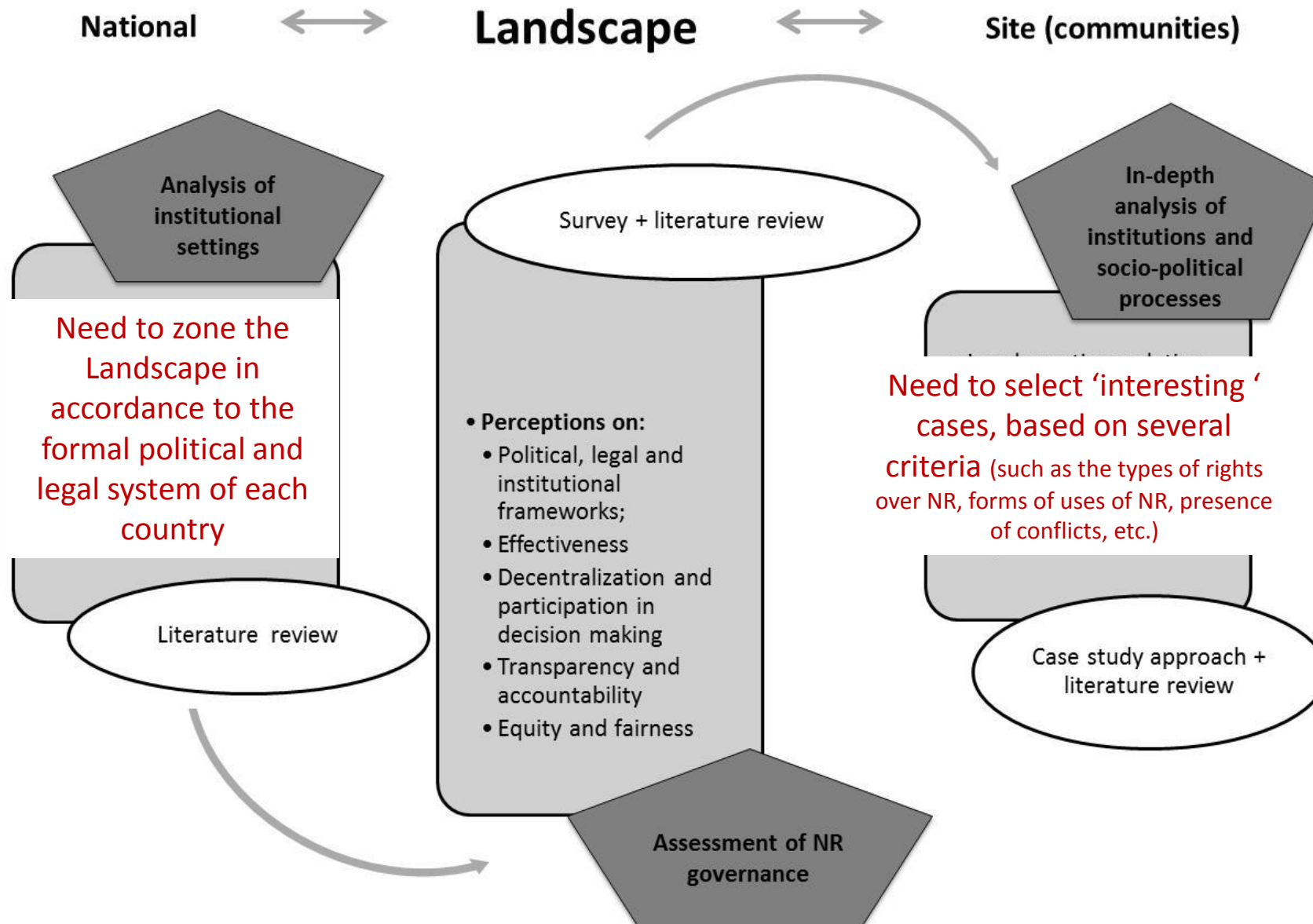
NOT as a geographic object

i.e. spatially, historically, politically and socially meaningful

The methodological challenges

- Need to adopt a landscape approach, in particular in order to establish indicators of institutional change
 - Standardized instruments to collect and analyze data at the landscape level
- Need to understand institutions and social practices, which are very much often very locally 'understandable'
 - Multidimensional, multilevel, with multiple stakeholders

A mixed methods approach



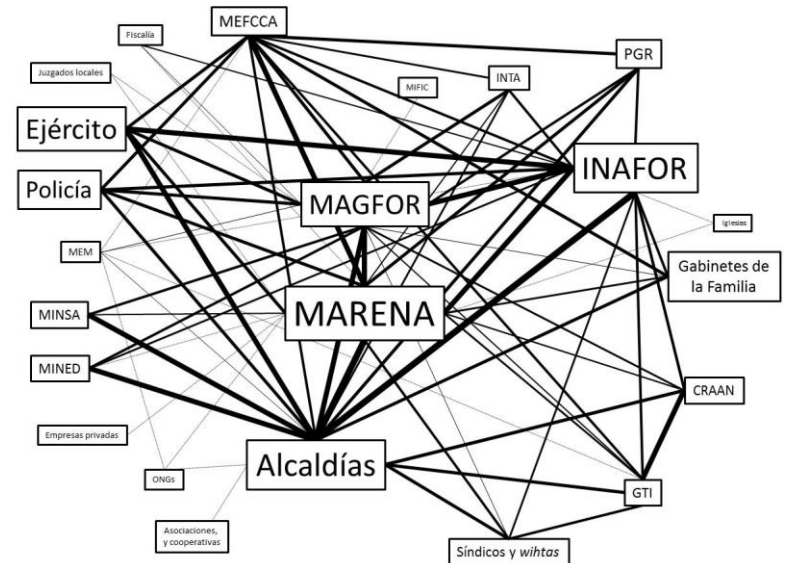


Challenges encountered



Institutional settings

- Two different political and legal systems
 - More than 30 formal laws and regulations relating to NRM
 - About 15-20 public agencies with mandates and responsibilities in NRM
- An heterogeneous NR governance within each country



Example of a map of influential stakeholders in policy making in Nicaragua

Institutional settings

- Mapping 'legitimate' property rights
 - In the absence of Cadaster
 - When illegal land tenure is common
 - When limits of concessions are unclear and subject to serious conflicts, including with the State
- Assessing NR governance from the key stakeholders' perspective
 - Scoring perceptions is not an easy task
 - It cannot tell you about what's really going on at the community and individual level
- Linking an assessment of NR governance 'quality' with ecosystem health?

Local institutional arrangements

- Institutions, rights over NR and governance systems are highly complex
- Many crucial issues are difficult to assess
 - Corruption, drug trafficking, political sensitiveness, etc.
- What locally govern NR mostly refer to individual agencies, including those of external actors
 - But how to up scale results to the landscape?



Radio

BOSAWAS

104.1 FM

What's next?

Zimbabwe

DOM

Réunion

Madagascar

Burkina Faso

Mexique

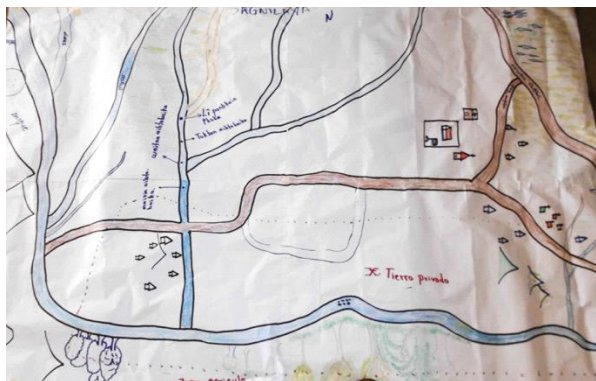
Laos

Brésil

Individual agencies within families from a gender perspective

- Gap related to roles of women in access/use, and exploitation of NR, and in particular trees
- Gaps related to the perceptions from women standpoints, relating to access/use, and exploitation of NR, and in particular trees
- And gaps related to different socio-cultural groups (ethnic groups) perspective?

Individual agencies within families from a gender perspective



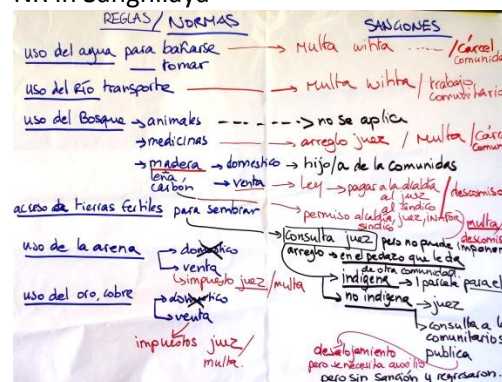
Socio-spatial map of distribution of the NR of the Sangnilaya community



Practices of uses and exploitation of NR in Sangnilaya



Key stakeholders in decision making related to NR in Sangnilaya



Rules in use, sanctions and key actors engaged in those rules and their implementation in Sangnilaya

Other questions of interest

- How to link socio-cultural-political processes and NRM?
- What about other stakeholders, which are not families/households?
- What about peoples that are out of Landscapes, but strongly affect landscapes dynamics (migrants)?



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