

## **Local Economic Needs and Potentials for Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Reduction: Three Cases from Tropical Forest Countries**





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## Guatemala

### Sierra de Lacandón National Park

1990, 202 865 ha,

Maya Biosphere Reserve



Fundación Defensores  
de la Naturaleza





## Actors and Challenges

- Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas - CONAP
  - Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza
  - 30 rural communities (ladinos and q'eqchi'es)
  - Local and regional government
  - Military – frontier region
  - International Organizations
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- Invasions and accelerated colonization
  - Fires, advance of agriculture and unsustainable cattle ranching
  - Extraction of natural resources, especially timber, xaté-palm and poaching
  - Illegal activities that favor a climate of non governability





## Guatemala

- Valuation of ecosystems
  - water provisions on local community level
  - PINFOR - *Programa de Incentivos Forestales*  
generation of environmental services one of several goals
  - *tourism development*
- Products from biodiversity
  - Local consumption of timber and other forest resources
  - Sale of forest products (Xaté-palm leaves for floristic exports)
- Market access for products
  - Difficult for local population due to transport restrains
  - *Future possibilities of sales to tourists*
- Governance issues
  - Land tenure insecure
  - High pressure from illegal traffic in the park area
  - Marginal region for tourism and development





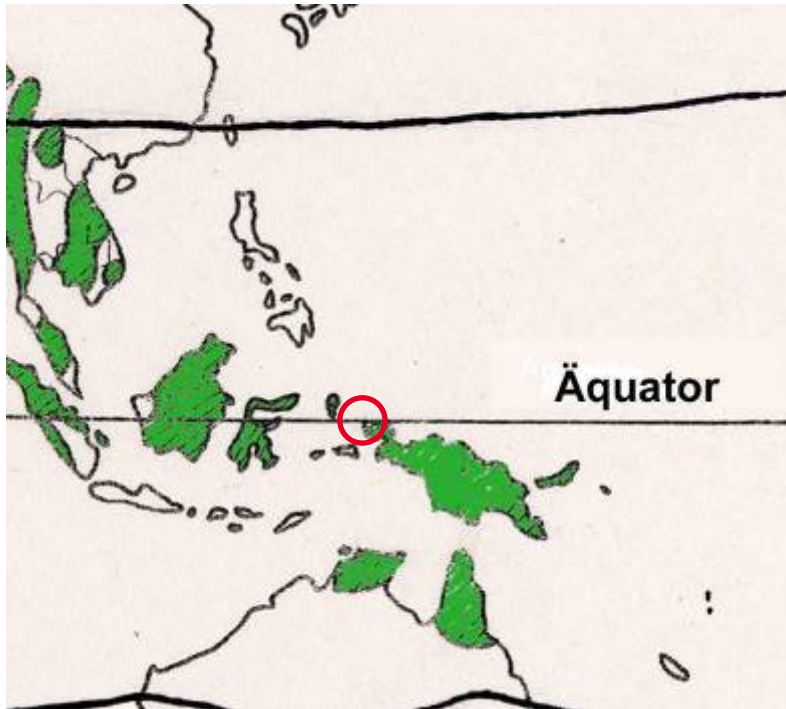
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# Indonesia

## Raja Ampat

2003, 4 610 800 ha

610 Islands, 86 Communities



# Actors and Challenges

- Local fishing communities
- Local organizations
- Local government
- National government
- International organizations
- Timber industry and large scale commercial fishing
- Timber and fish are the main sources (cash) for development
- Pressure for non sustainable exploitation (illegal logging, dynamite fisheries)
- Erosion - loss of biodiversity and livelihoods
- Access to information and markets difficult
- Corruption and failing governance







# Indonesia

- Valuation of ecosystems
  - Livelihood for local communities
  - No monetary value
  - Monetary value of timber higher than that for ecosystem services
- Products from biodiversity
  - Local consumption of resources
  - Sale of products by women groups
- Market access for products
  - Sale through commercial traders at low values
  - High transport costs
  - *Future possibilities of sales to tourist*
- Governance issues
  - involvement of local authorities in illegal activities
  - High corruption level
  - Unsecure status of Papua province – Transmigration conflicts
  - Forest ownership not determined

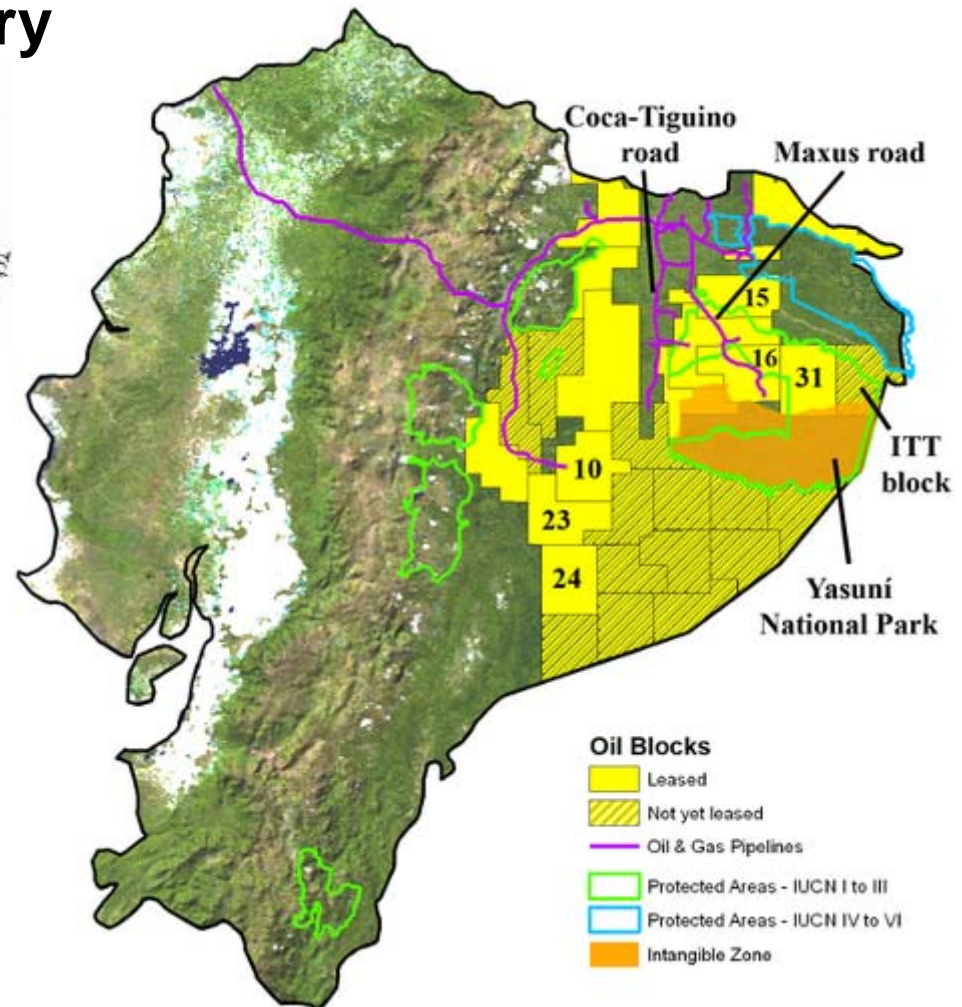
# Ecuador

## Sarayaku Indigenous Territory

1992, 1 115 000 ha

### Block 23

1993, CGC





## Actors and Challenges

- ATAYAK - Asociación de Yachak
- Sarayaku Community
- Other indigenous communities
- Ecuadorian government
- Oil companies
- International Organizations
- Inter-American Human Rights Court
- Environmental and social impact of oil exploitation
- Indigenous and traditional rights
- National external debt
- Loss of traditional knowledge
- Conservation and/or Indigenous traditions vs. development





## Ecuador

- Valuation of ecosystems
  - Oil has higher value for Ecuador
  - Livelihood of indigenous community
- Products from biodiversity
  - Local consumption of forest products for food, medicine, construction, traditional rituals and others
  - Sales to tourists
- Market access for products
  - Not an important issue
  - Difficult due to transport restraints
- Governance issues
  - Indigenous rights /traditional system not accepted
  - High pressure from international market for oil exploitation



## Tropical forest regions

- High biodiversity
- Remote areas
- Weak governance structures
- Absence of rights
- Difficult market access
- Poor people – forest dependent



## Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Business Opportunities

- Forest resources are the livelihood of the local communities – no (significant) source of cash income for them
- High value for unsustainable exploitation of resources by bigger actors
- **Empowerment of local actors as a solution?**
- **How can local stakeholders access economic benefits from ecosystem valuations?**
- **What are the prerequisites for business opportunities for local actors?**

## Policy Requirements, Strategies and Measures

- Biodiversity hotspots – often in areas with weak governance structures
- **How can issues of rights (land tenure, access, use) be addressed in regions with weak governance structures / national sovereignty?**





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# Thank you!

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