

The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry  
with the Rights and Resources Initiative

*“Global trends – implications on the  
development and use of natural resources”*

# Territorial Dynamics in Latin America: Implications for rights, resources and development

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Wednesday June 8th, 2011,  
Stockholm, Sweden

PRISMA

PROGRAMA SALVADOREÑO DE INVESTIGACIÓN SOBRE DESARROLLO Y MEDIO AMBIENTE



# New patterns and old paradigms

## the importance of understanding territorial dynamics

- **Fundamentally new territorial dynamics across Latin America with clear implications for rural livelihoods and sustainable landscapes**
- **Complex and heterogeneous scenarios are the result of interplay between powerful international and regional interests with local actors who must resist, adapt or innovate**
- **New scenarios still largely analyzed through outdated development lenses that do not sufficiently incorporate new territorial realities, and thus hamper the formulation of equitable and sustainable policies**

### Presentation

1. **Overview of trends and transformations in Latin America**
2. **How this plays out in specific territories of Central America and the Amazon**
3. **Alternative scenarios require new paradigms**
4. **Lessons from Latin America for rethinking development**

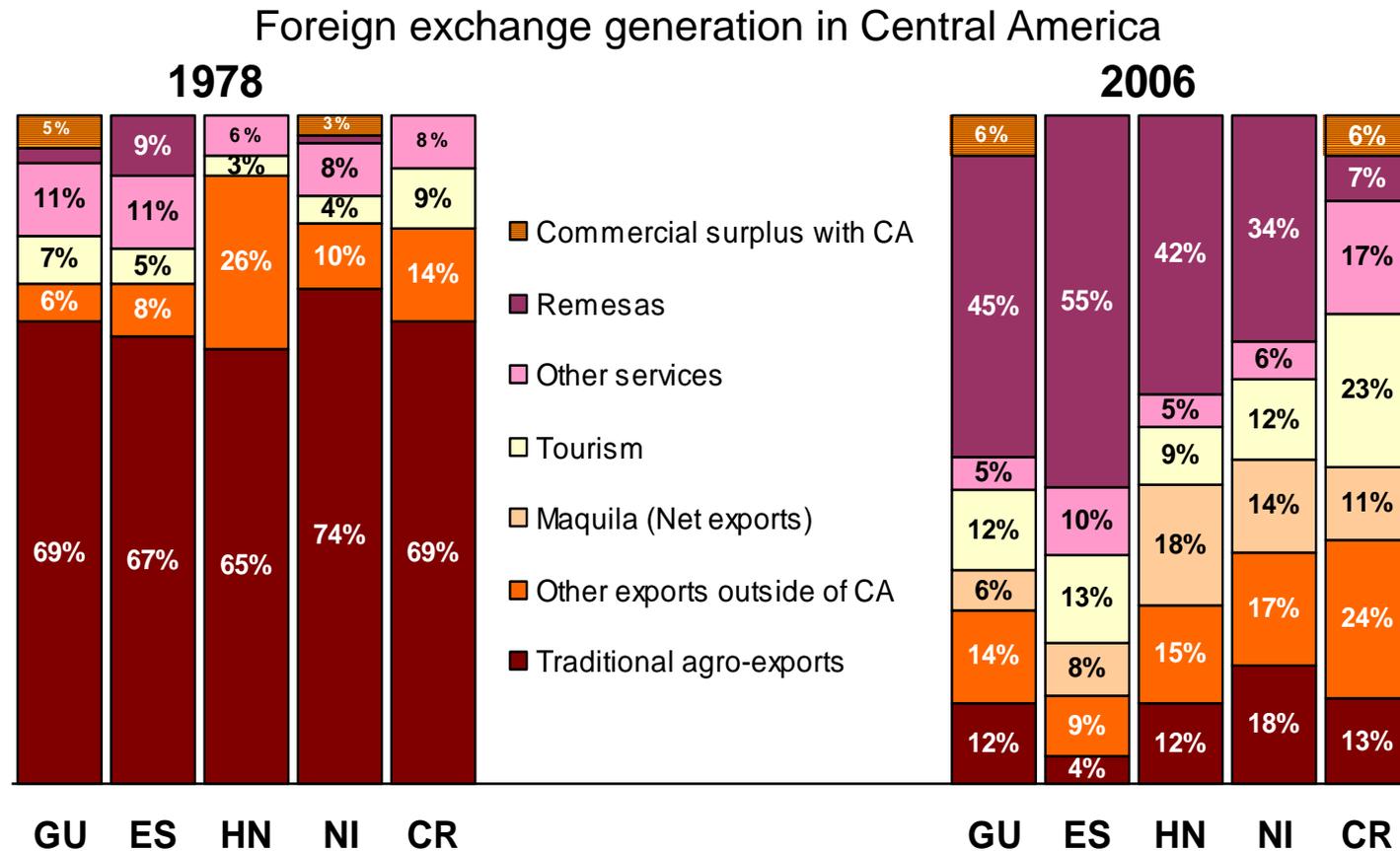


# Regional transitions drive new territorial dynamics:

- **Structural adjustment, free trade, and diminishing role of the State**
- **Rising interest in conservation and cultural heritage (hot spots, parks, UNESCO World Heritage)**
- **Democratization and decentralization, environmental justice movement, advances in indigenous rights**
- **Growth of illicit activities, operations and corridors (trafficking of persons, drugs, species; cartels and gangs, etc.)**



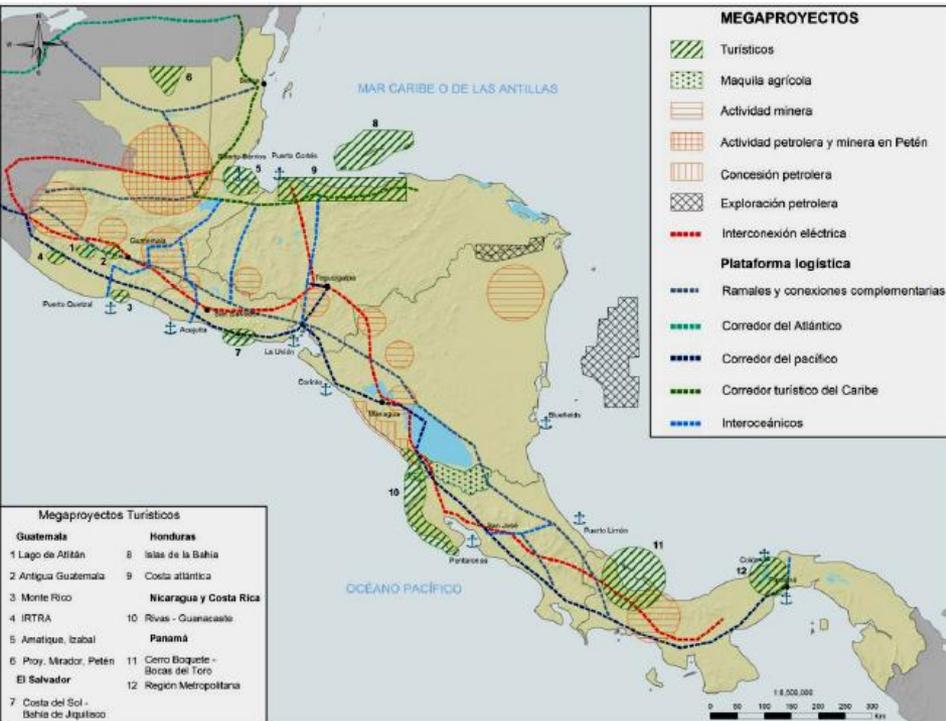
# New economic models bring new rural realities: From traditional agro-exports to remittances, tourism and maquila



- Dramatic economic changes and new patterns of accumulating wealth
- Expansion to “new territories”: Access/control over territories and resources
- Territorial reconfiguration, new territorial dynamics and new conflicts



# Megaprojects in Mesoamerica and the Amazon: Trade infrastructure, extractive industry and tourism



# Global crisis & territorial dynamics

Por máquinas en mantenimiento

## Reserva estratégica de energía, al límite

Entre martes y miércoles quedaron fuera de servicio 322 megavatios

El sistema eléctrico nacional se encuentra en un momento crítico por la falta de mantenimiento de las centrales hidroeléctricas y térmicas. Entre martes y miércoles quedaron fuera de servicio 322 megavatios, lo que representa el 10 por ciento de la capacidad instalada. La situación se agravó por la falta de combustible en algunas plantas térmicas y por la avería de una central hidroeléctrica.



Reserva estratégica de energía	
Operativa	406.5
Reserva	406.5
Mantenimiento	406.5
Total	406.5

## Reclamo mundial ante la crisis alimentaria



## A crisis of multiple dimensions

Financial, energy, climate, food security

## A return to the *real economy*:

Bust of the financial bubble, drop in commodity prices provoke territorial hoarding for new and future sources of wealth: minerals, energy, natural resources in general



### An explosive situation:

- Expansion to new territories, land grabbing and hoarding of the hinterlands
- New disputes over access and control over resources and territories



# Climate responses & territorial disputes

*Climate change is wreaking havoc on Latin America with impacts on human health, food security, economic activities and physical infrastructure*

*Latin America urgently needs to promote adaptation*

*Focus on new opportunities derived from the emergent markets associated with climate change mitigation (CDM, REDD and agro fuels)*

Mitigation initiatives delinked from adaptation

**Production of agrofuels:**

A cure worse than the disease

*New disputes for the use of and control over territories (food vs. energy production)*

**REDD:**  
An opportunity or a threat?

A-2000



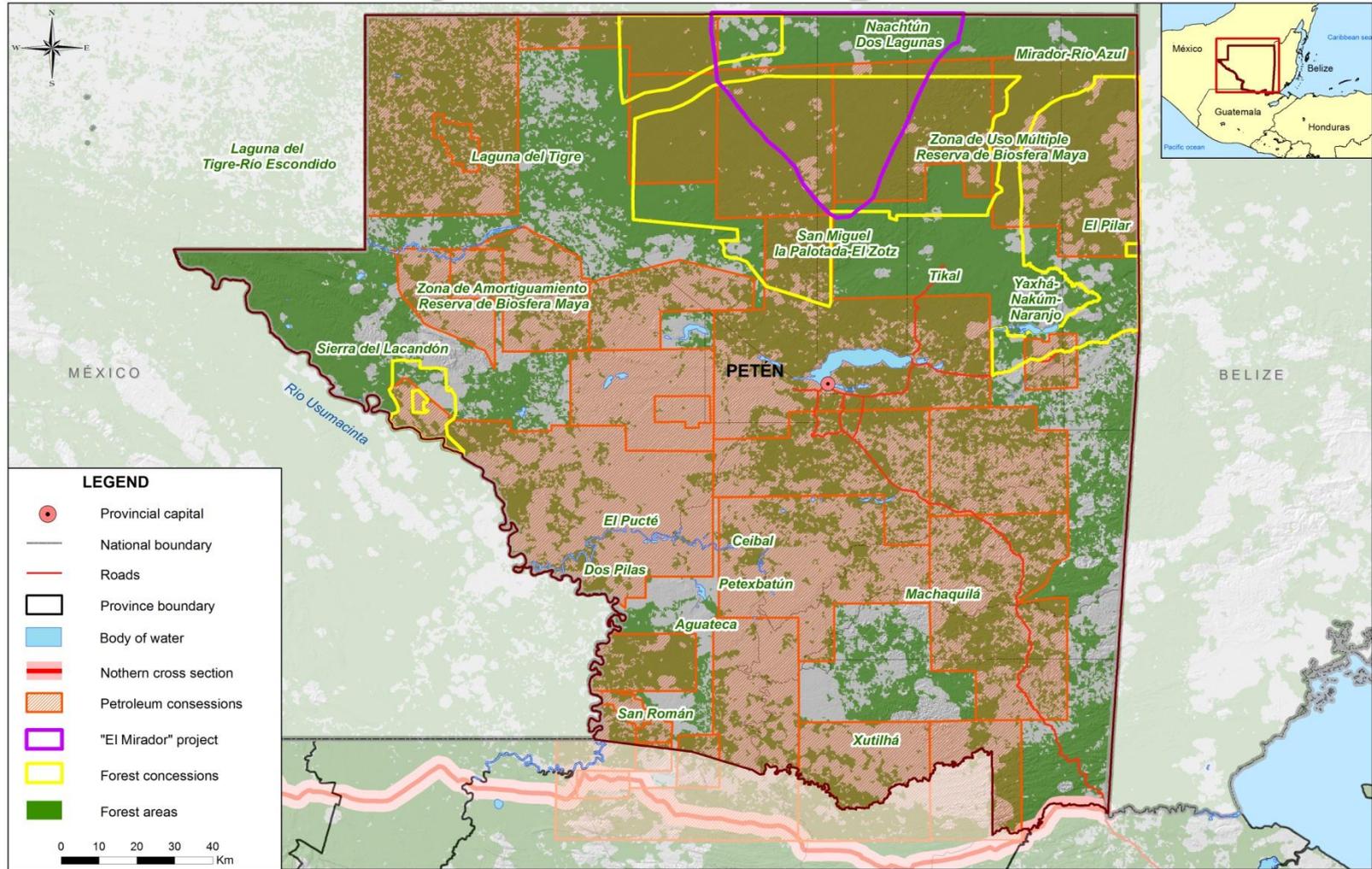
# How does this play out in specific territories of Latin America?



- Petén, Guatemala
- Mosquitia, Honduras
- The Peruvian Amazon



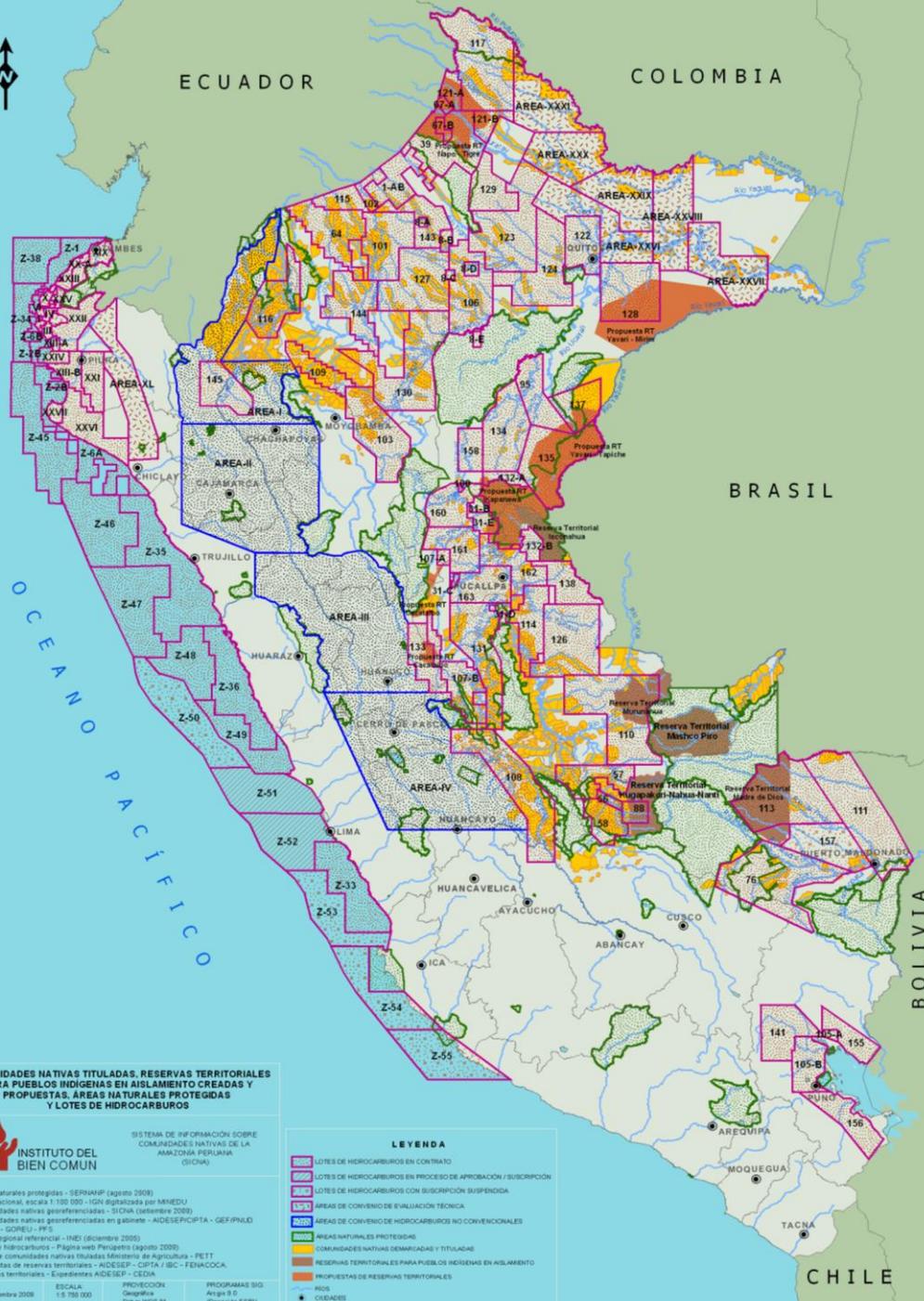
# Guatemala: Territorial dynamics & disputes in Peten



Agrofuels, REDD, petroleum, infrastructure, tourism, migration, land concentration, narco-trafficking, etc.



# The Peruvian Amazon: Territorial dynamics & disputes



- **More roads in the Amazon: Next 10 yrs - 880 km of new highways & 2000 km paved roads**
- **Rapid proliferation of concessions for hydrocarbon exploration and operation - more than 1/2 of all the titled indigenous land in the Amazonia is covered by concessions**
- **15 hydroelectric dams projected in Peruvian Amazon - 1<sup>st</sup> will flood 40,000 hectares**
- **Gold fever & ravaged rivers – in 338,000 ha. of Madre de Dios, 1500+ mining rts**
- **Opposing interests erupting into conflict: Killing of indigenous protesters, human rts abuses, persecution of AIDESEP leader**

# New Dynamics / Old Paradigms

The territorial dynamics lens refocuses attention on the rights, livelihoods and local development aspirations that are disputed in rural territories, and how supporting these key elements can promote alternative pathways to equitable and sustainable development, and even better *governance*.

Conventional development and conservation paradigms fall short:

- Traditional rural development models emphasize efficiency (agricultural yields)
- Classic conservation discourses focus on biodiversity (set asides)

Rethinking development requires a reframing of assumptions

- Economic growth without equity undermines social cohesion
- Physical integrity of inhabited vs. empty landscapes
- Revaluing the role indigenous and peasant communities play in natural resource management and governance

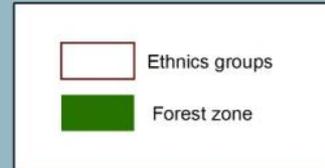
***Rethinking development requires centering on expanding rights***



# The Mesoamerican Community

## Carbon Initiative:

A REDD+ strategy focused on defending, strengthening and expanding the territorial and forest rights of indigenous peoples and community forestry organizations



CARIBBEAN SEA

### Strategic role of indigenous peoples and forest communities:

A large portion of the region's forests fall within indigenous territories and/or areas of community management, these are frequently the best managed forests as well as the areas most threatened by the new territorial dynamics

PACIFIC OCEAN

Unprecedented opportunity for designing inclusive REDD+ schemes that address the underlying causes of deforestation and degradation, and strategically integrate the role of indigenous peoples and forest communities.



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