

THE GRADUATE INSTITUTE | GENEVA
INSTITUT DE HAUTES ÉTUDES
INTERNATIONALES ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Acronyms

ADC	Asociación para el Desarrollo Campesino, Colombia
APN	Administración de Parques Nacionales, Argentina
CORACTo	Consejo Regional Ambiental del Área de Conservación Tortuguero, Costa Rica
CRTM	Consejo Regional Tsimane Mosestén, Bolivia
EEPA	Evaluating the effectiveness of participatory approaches in protected areas
EU	European Union
FFEM	Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial
GDP	Gross domestic product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HDI	Human development index
HLC	Humedal Laguna de la Cocha, Colombia
IIRSA	Iniciativa para la Integración de la Infraestructura Regional Sudamericana
INRENA	Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales, Perú
IRD	Institut de recherche pour le développement
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUED	Institut universitaire d'études du développement
MAB	Man and the Biosphere
MINAE	Ministerio del Ambiente y Energía, Costa Rica
NGO	Non governmental organisation
OAS	Organization of American States
PAG	Parc amazonien de Guyane française
PNR	Parc naturel régional de Guyane française – Pôle ouest
PNT	Parque Nacional Tortuguero, Costa Rica
PPP	Purchasing power parity
RBCV	Reserva da Biosfera do Cinturão Verde da Cidade de São Paulo, Brasil
RBLY	Reserva de Biosfera de las Yungas, Argentina
RBM	Reserva de Biosfera Manu, Perú
RBTIPL	Reserva de Biosfera y Territorio Indígena Pilon Lajas, Bolivia
RBV	Reserva de Biosfera Yasuní, Ecuador
SC	Supervisory council
SERNAP	Servicio Nacional de Áreas Protegidas, Bolivia
SFIC	Santuario de Flora Isla de la Corota, Colombia
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
ZDUC	Zone de droits d'usage collectifs, Guyane française

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1 Introduction

The four institutions participating in the project ‘Evaluating the effectiveness of participatory approaches’ (hereafter named EEPA), are *Institut de recherche pour le développement* (IRD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), *Institut universitaire d’études du développement* (IUED) and UNESCO Man and the Biosphere programme (MAB). During 2007 they elaborated nine case studies testing the developed methodology in pilot protected areas. The protected areas are located in eight different Latin American countries, seven of them in South America and one in Costa Rica. Two parks are situated in French Guiana, an overseas region and department of France, located on the northern coast of South America (see table 1).

Table 1: The EEPA case studies

Protected Area	Country	Partner	Author
Parc amazonien de Guyane française	Guiana, France	IRD	Geoffroy Filoche, Catherine RUBertin IRD

Table 3: General information about the protected areas

Protected Area	Country	Natural region	Conservation category	IUCN category	Foundation	Size ha	Inhabitants	Population density Inh. ^a /km ²
Parc amazonien de Guyane française	Guiana, France	Guiana shield	French National Park	II	27.02.2007	3.400.000	7.000	0,2
Parc naturel régional de Guyane française – Pôle ouest	Guiana, France	Atlantic coastal lowlands	French Regional Park	V	26.03.2001	125.000	6.300	5,0
Reserva de Biosfera Manu ^b	Peru	Amazon basin, eastern slope of the tropical Andes	MAB Biosphere Reserve	II ^c	1977	1.881.200	13.000	0,7
Santuario de Flora Isla de la Corota ^x – Humedal Laguna de la Cocha ⁺	Colombia	Eastern slope of the tropical Andes	Colombian Protected Area ^x – Ramsar site ⁺	III ^x VI ⁺	1977 ^x 2000 ⁺	16 ^x 39.000 ⁺	0 ^x 5.700 ⁺	0 ^x 14,6 ⁺
Reserva de Biosfera y Territorio Indígena Pílon Lajas ^d	Bolivia	Eastern slope of the tropical Andes, Amazon basin	MAB Biosphere Reserve	VI	1977 ^e , 09.04.1992 ^f	400.000	9.600	2,4
Reserva de Biosfera de las Yungas ^g	Argentina	Eastern slope of the subtropical Andes	MAB Biosphere Reserve	II ^c	07.11.2002	1.328.720	33.700	2,5
Parque Nacional Tortuguero	Costa Rica	Caribbean coastal lowlands	Costa Rican National Park	II	03.11.1975	80.574 (34.819 terrestrial, 45.755 maritime)	1.000	2,9 ^h
Reserva de Biosfera Yasuní ⁱ	Ecuador	Amazon basin	MAB Biosphere Reserve	II ^c	25.05.1989	1.682.000	9.800	0,6
Reserva da Biosfera do Cinturão Verde da Cidade de São Paulo ^j	Brazil	Atlantic coastal mountains and lowlands	MAB Biosphere Reserve	Ia ^c , II ^c	09.07.1994	1.540.000	23.000.000	1.493,5

NOTES

- a. Inhabitants
b. www.unesco.org/mabdb/br/brdir/directory/biores.asp?code=PER+02&mode=all
c. In the core area of the biosphere reserve
d. www.unesco.org/mabdb/br/brdir/directory/biores.asp?code=BOL+01&mode=all
e. Designation of UNESCO MAB *Reserva de Biosfera Pílon Lajas*
f. Bolivian supreme decree that creates *Reserva de Biosfera y Territorio Indígena Pílon Lajas*
g. www.unesco.org/mabdb/br/brdir/directory/biores.asp?code=ARG+11&mode=all
h. Population density related to the terrestrial area of the park
i. www.unesco.org/mabdb/br/brdir/directory/biores.asp?code=ECU+02&mode=all
j. www.unesco.org/mabdb/br/brdir/directory/biores.asp?code=BRA+01&mode=all

The IUCN protected area management categories (Bishop et al. 2004) of the sites

As follows, a short description of the actors living in or relevant to the protected areas is presented in the same order as listed in the tables:

The case study about *Parc amazonien de Guyane française* concentrates on the Amerindian ethnic group of Teko who live in the rural commune of Camopi. The rural commune is ethnically mixed: 250 Teko live together with 650 Wayãpi, another Amerindian ethnic group. The actors that intervene in the supervisory council of PAG can be classified into four categories: territorial communities (*collectivités territoriales*), Amerindian and Bushinenge

and migrant populations; the local mestizo population Camba is not the focus of attention of this analysis. Autochthonous indigenous peoples from the Tsimane, Tacana and Masetén communities account for 15% of the local population, whereas Andean colonists form the majority in the bordering colonisation zone. Furthermore, the colonists are mostly indigenous peoples – Aymara and Quechua from the Bolivian altiplano. The settling of the colonisation zone Yucumo-Rurrenabaque at the northeastern border of RBTIPL started in 1978. The Aymara and Quechua are characterised by a potent feeling of ethnic identity, reflected in a very strong syndicate tradition. Their powerful organisation structures and political capacity distinguish them very much from the Amazonian indigenous

The actors of Ecuadorian *Reserva de Biosfera Yasuní* are mainly indigenous peoples. The Tagaeri-Taromenane are isolated indigenous peoples without any type of formal representation. The Waorani, who have been related to exogenous stakeholders, e.g. loggers and oil companies since the nineteen fifties, are formally represented by the Waorani Nationality of Ecuador⁶, the organisation of their indigenous nationality. Another group, the Quichuas, have migrated to the Amazon basin in different colonisation waves; their representation is a federation of the Quichua indigenous communities in the province of Orellana⁷. Other settlers, from small villages of neighbor provinces, arrived as colonists during the seventies to the Ecuadorian Amazon when formal governmental policies encouraged individual efforts; they are represented by a peasant federation for the province of Orellana⁸.

The huge *Reserva da Biosfera do Cinturão Verde da Cidade de São Paulo* in Brazil encompasses not only twelve protected areas but also the largest urban agglomeration in South America. The supervisory council of RBCV includes governmental and non governmental actors. Among the latter are inhabitants, representatives from primary, secondary and tertiary sector, NGOs and river basin representatives. The per capita green space available in the metropolitan area of São Paulo is so small that the actors face a big challenge.

3 Participation

Most of the investigated protected areas have a supervisory council as maximum level of participation to support management and administration of the site. In table 4, you can find some general information about the supervisory systems. The division of council members into governmental and non-governmental allows for a simplified first impression. Detailed descriptions about the classification of council members can be found in the case studies and throughout this chapter. The level of participation in the protected areas, according to grid 2 of the EIPA methodology, is described area for area and summarized in table 5.

⁶ Nacionalidad Waorani del Ecuador (NAWE)

⁷ Federación de Comunas, Unión de Nativos de la Amazonía Ecuatoriana (FECUNAE), which includes 120 communities

⁸ Federación de Organizaciones Campesinas de la Amazonía (FOCAO), which has 413 active members

Table 4: Supervisory systems of the protected areas

Protected Area	Country	Supervisory system	Foundation	Council members		
					gov ^a	non gov ^a
Parc amazonien de Guyane française	Guiana, France	Supervisory council	2007	44	10	34

Parc naturel régional de

NOTES

representation. The "local" has a special connotation in French Guiana: it comprises territorial communities (*collectivités territoriales*) emerged from the decentralisation, and Amerindian and Bushinenge ethnical local communities (*communautés locales*) which allocate the customary authorities. The territorial communities have twelve representatives in

the Kali'na can influence the agenda of PNR by means of the two representatives from their territorial community.

Peruvian National Park and

been successful, especially if we consider the non-Quichuas ethnic groups. Even with the Quichuas, to sign agreements and to support eco tourism and small productive projects is not enough. Arrangements regarding the access and use of natural resources as well as the making of environmental policies have to be done. The relation between the external actors that promote participation and the indigenous peoples is asymmetric: the levels of welfare and education, as well as the philosophy of life, set up different mind frames regarding the extent of the conservation needs. The participatory rationale creates increasing necessities, which can only be supplied with currency among people who not long ago lived only from what the jungle offered. According to the enumerated criteria, level of participation in RBY receives the category passive/consultative.

For the case of *Reserva da Biosfera do Cinturão Verde da Cidade de São Paulo* in Brazil, participation involves three different levels: an apprenticeship process that leads to the action plan for the biosphere reserve; a result of a project that involves a territory, a sector, or a resource; and, finally through the participation and execution of this projects. The association of different levels of participation during the dialogue periods enables an interactive participation. The supervisory council of RBCV includes 17 governmental and 17 non-governmental delegates. The dialogue among actors has always been the starting point for any kind of initiative because the supervisory council forms a link for institutions, private

Table 5: Level of participation in the protected areas

Protected Area	Country	Supervisory organ	Level of participation
Parc amazonien de Guyane française	Guiana, France	Supervisory council	Functional/interactive
Parc naturel régional de Guyane française – Pôle ouest	Guiana, France	Syndicate committee	Consultative/functional
Reserva de Biosfera Manu	Peru	Supervisory council with executive commission	Passive/consultative
Santuario de Flora Isla de la Corota ^x – Humedal Laguna de la Cocha ⁺	Colombia	<i>Minga</i>	Functional ^x Self-mobilisation ⁺
Reserva de Biosfera y Territorio Indígena Pilón Lajas	Bolivia	Supervisory council and Indigenous council	Self-mobilisation but conflictive (or interactive)
Reserva de Biosfera de las Yungas	Argentina	Supervisory council	Consultative/functional
Parque Nacional Tortuguero	Costa Rica	Environmental regional council with executive commission	Passive
Reserva de Biosfera Yasuní	Ecuador	Supervisory council	Passive/consultative
Reserva da Biosfera do Cinturão Verde da Cidade de São Paulo	Brazil	Supervisory council	Interactive

Even though the stakeholders incorporated many of the "practices to observe" from grid 2 of the EEPA methodology into the decision-making process, most cases reflect an intermediate level of participation heavily biased to the lower end of the scale. The Brazilian RBCV and the French Ggc upper scale, as well as the remarkable examples of self-mobilisation of Bolivian RBTIPL and Colombian HLC.

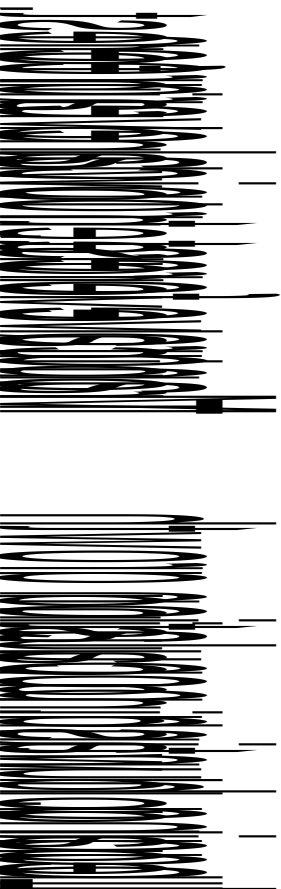
The supervisory council has been the main vehicle to enable participation in these protected areas. The participation levels of the supervisory councils widely range from passive to self-mobilisation. On the other hand, the alternative supervisory systems have proven to be still at low but increasing levels. The case of PNR is interesting because of the local initiative in the elaboration of a territorial project, despite other problems.

4 Conservation

Table 6 shows the conservation issues, threats and weaknesses to conservation the protected areas are facing. Threats are arranged from more to less important.

Noteworthy are the importance of logging as a threat in most protected areas and the uniqueness of the threats that RBCV faces. The three protected areas situated on the eastern slope of the tropical Andes and in the Amazon include great biodiversity and face a similar situation: highland peoples with their rationale moving downward to the Amazon basin, displacing locals and endangering their livelihoods. Logging, illegal hunting, and

Table 6: Conservation issues, threats and weaknesses to conservation in the protected areas



agricultural colonisation are threats that subsist because these protected areas share a common problem: low budgets that imply insufficient number of rangers and technical staff. This weakness is a common issue for most of the parks under study and for most of the protected areas in Latin America (Guerrero et al. 2007, Rivas 2006, UICN 2008).

The infrastructure projects that pose as a menace for the Colombian, Peruvian and Argentinean protected areas relate to the South American regional integration initiative IIRSA. The initiative has the objective to promote the development of transport, energy and telecommunications infrastructure for the continent. IIRSA defined ten integration axes of roads and waterways to connect the Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean (Dijck & Haak 2007, Grupo Semillas & ILSA 2007).

Ecuador's RBY and Peru's RBM share a special "conservation" issue. Both parks provide space for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation. All the stakeholders bringing western civilisation to the core areas of these parks threaten the survival of the last indigenous communities in voluntary isolation (Cabodevilla 2004).

Protection of tropical humid forest as in Ecuador and Guiana face different threats but they share a common one: the exploitation of mineral resources. There is also an important interest in conservation of coastal lowlands and the mitigation of the current threats, as demonstrated in the Brazilian, Costa Rican and Guianan protected areas.

In the PAG, the main concern of the Amerindian ethnic group Teko is to eradicate the illegal gold washing that causes environmental pollution in the park. Most gold prospectors are illegal Brazilian immigrants causing problems to public health and security.

As part of the empowerment process, the Association for Peasant Development in La Cocha introduced *research mingas* (*mingas investigativas*): communitarian work and meetings to investigate nature and ecological processes in the area. As a result of the *research mingas*, the members of ADC established the Network of La Cocha Natural Reserves¹² at the beginning of the nineties. Today 52 families are involved in this network of 54 private protected areas conserving 3.500 ha of cloud forest, *páramos* and wetlands, including biodiversity. The protection, regeneration and reforestation of native forests combined with

federation from "colonists" to "agro ecological producers"¹³, on the other hand they present conservation often as an exogenous value, imposed by the *Q'ara*, a pejorative Aymara expression for mestizos and whites. Conservation is a secondary interest compared to the livelihoods of the colonists – livelihoods in the sense of clearing rain forest for sedentary agriculture.

The incident of Sauzalito shows that the establishment of RBLY changed the balance of power and the eco-political dynamic in this northwestern Argentinean region. In 2002, the enterprise Ledesma wanted to clear 1.050 ha forest on the borderline to RBLY for sugar cane fields. This led to a front made of Greenpeace, an Argentinean workers syndicate¹⁴ and the members of the SC who stressed the importance of the Sauzalito forest as a biological corridor for the park. Thanks to this campaign, in 2007 Ledesma renounced definitely the deforestation and incorporated Sauzalito as a private reserve into the development plan of Jujuy province.

PNT faces some threats that differ from the other sites. The southern and western borders of the park receive a high pesticide impact from the adjacent banana mono-cropping. The beach on the eastern coast is the most important Caribbean nesting site of sea turtles, especially of the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). The sea turtle conservation programme is a success that led to a strong increase of turtle nests in the last 30 years. On the other hand, the illegal trade of turtle eggs persists; the MINAE has only five rangers to monitor a 24 km long beach. Some of the poachers that collect the turtle eggs are at the same time heavily armed cocaine trafficking intermediaries; Tortuguero beach lies in the speedboat drug trafficking route from Colombia to North America. The Barra de Tortuguero village on the northern border is the tourist centre of the park, and the increasing number of visitors has never been subject of an environmental impact assessment. Lack of sewage treatment in the village pollutes the surrounding coastal ecosystem. The tremendous success of tourism with its high number of visitors paying park entrances sharply contrasts with the absence of MINAE investments in the park or the village.

The eighties brought to RBY an increased pressure on the use of natural resources through oil and logging activities, way beyond the control of Ecuadorian authorities. These activities, along with the environmental impacts associated to them, seriously threaten the functionality of an ecosystem on which even indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation rely. The current

¹³ The

overlapping normative, implying different territories¹⁵ and different institutions¹⁶, is so complex that it has only brought increasing pressures on the RBY.

Urban expansion, disposition of industrial pollutants and infrastructure projects, are the main problems the RBCV faces. They threaten the environmental goods and services the RBCV provides to the metropolitan area and its associated sprawl. The *mata atlântica* and water reservoirs are important issues for the supervisory council. It is interesting to note that the threat of an infrastructure project gave birth to the process that conducted to the creation of the biosphere reserve.

5 Livelihoods

Table 7: Local people livelihoods in the protected areas

Protected Area	Country	Livelihoods	Income ^a
Parc amazonien de Guyane française	Guiana, France	Indigenous peoples: Fishing, hunting, shifting cultivation, cattle raising, gold washing, handicrafts, tourism	Low
Parc naturel régional de Guyane française – Pôle ouest	Guiana, France	Indigenous peoples: Fishing at sea and in estuary, shifting cultivation, hunting, handicrafts, selective collection of turtle eggs, tourism	Low
Reserva de Biosfera Manu	Peru	Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation: Hunting, fishing, gathering, shifting cultivation Contacted indigenous peoples: Hunting, fishing, gathering, shifting cultivation, logging, handicrafts Colonists: Sedentary agriculture, cattle raising, logging, tourism	Low
Santuario de Flora Isla de la Corota – Humedal Laguna de la Cocha	Colombia	ADC memS	

work now in the tourist trade occupying the lowest social scale employments, whereas the Costa Ricans from the capital hold the qualified jobs. The social inequalities have a direct correlation with the tourism “market”. Due to the growth of tourism, the social inequalities have increased in PNT. About 10% of the tourism money remains in the community, the other 90% return to San José, USA and Europe.

In Brazil’s RBCV, secondary and tertiary economic activities employ millions of inhabitants. However, there are also primary sector stakeholders, whose livelihoods derive from family agriculture, as in most of the other protected areas. In some of them, industrial and tertiary activities do exist but in a much smaller scale. The youth programme in environmental education is the principal measure of RBCV to improve livelihood of the local population. It is a two-year environmental education programme for disadvantaged youth that offers working opportunities in fields such as tourism, agroforestry and recycling. This programme constitutes a veritable socio-environmental policy for young people and represents an important contribution for the creation of an “eco-jobs” market. At present, there are 15 eco-formation centres in 12 municipalities. In its twelfth anniversary, the program has graduated 1.300 students and offered 670 environmental employments.

6 Relation between participation, conservation and livelihoods

The case studies show the difficulties in assessing the contribution of the participatory paradigm to the reconciliation of conservation and development objectives. Participatory processes in protected areas form part of and reflect the political, economic and social development of their countries. Most of the Latin American democracies are weak: it is a matter of *voting democracies*

The levels of conservation for seven sites received the medium classification. Without any doubt, there is success in the conservation of the parks, i.e. the sea turtle conservation programme in PNT. However, external actors threaten all of them, from the local (colonists), to the national (illegal logging cartels) and international level (transnational oil companies). All sites have in common a low budget of park administration with an insufficient number of rangers and technical staff (compare table 6). Nevertheless, the declaration of a site as a protected area gives it an advantage for conservation compared to a neighbouring zone not declared as such. The two parks in French Guiana form an exception: the country has a remote location on the South American continent and its population density is very low. Both factors are favourable for a high conservation level and low rate of external actors threatening the integrity of the parks.

Table 8: Levels of participation, conservation and livelihoods in the protected areas

Protected Area	Country	Participation ^a	Conservation ^b	Livelihoods ^c
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and livelihoods with the help of a participatory process of sensitisation, apprenticeship and empowerment, and with gender and generational equity and a tangible distribution of benefits of conservation. By means of the *minga*, ADC members achieved positive results, beginning with conservation in every farm, they were able to increase the community-managed areas. This process of auto management has led to community-based decision-making. We can consider the experience of *campesinos* and indigenous peoples from La Cocha a “bottom up management”. As recognition and honour for their efforts, ADC has received 19 national and international awards since 1990.

The parks with the poorest overall assessments are the three parks in the tropical Andean countries, plus Costa Rica’s PNT and Argentina’s RBLY. Peru’s RBM, Bolivia’s RBTIPL and Ecuador’s RBY share a similar situation of highland peoples displaced to the Amazon basin (see chapter 4). Compared to the first-mentioned, the Costa Rican and Argentinean parks have an advantage in livelihoods, both lie in the upper middle income countries (table 2), i.e. a low income in these countries normally signifies better livelihoods than a low income in Peru, Bolivia or Ecuador.

7 Conclusions and recommendations

The synthesis finishes with the principal conclusions and recommendations of the field studies. The nine studies from eight Latin American countries reflect the enormous natural and cultural diversity of the continent. A good interplay of participation, conservation and livelihoods is an imperative for functioning protected area systems in Latin America. On the one hand, the field studies reveal many weaknesses, but on the other they illustrate a lot of success in the participatory management of protected areas. Participatory processes are very complex, they need a broad time horizon and a lot of staying power, but they have no real alternatives. The developed world concept of “parks without people” in no way applies to the Latin American reality.

The following is a selection of the conclusions and recommendations from the nine case studies:

The *Parc amazonien de Guyane française*, founded in 2007, would definitely impact the living conditions of the indigenous population’s in the region. Unfortunately, the authorities did not make use of the opportunity given with the park creation to recognize a legal status of the local indigenous populations and their unequivocal rights of their territories and resources.

Parc naturel régional de Guyane française – Pôle ouest has the problem that different types of communities and territorial entities have competences to take measures relative to the
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development or conservation of the same territory. Within the park exists a mosaic of different zones with particular regimes and a variety of instances founded to intervene in each of these zones without a veritable harmonisation of competition. The Kali'na communities feel that large portions of their zones with collective use rights now have a juridical regime of environmental protection preventing them from carrying out their economic and environmental practices, which allow them to satisfy their new needs.

The SC of the Peruvian *Reserva de Biosfera Manu* has the claim to incorporate participation and co-management as elements in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the protected area – a process that just began. A legitimate, effective and entire participation of the local population in planning, decision-making processes and benefits increases the possibilities of meeting the conservation objectives of the site and fosters environmental democracy. Capacity development for communities, local governments and staff of RBM is necessary to reach a more inclusive and technical management.

During 27 years of institutional history in the Colombian *Santuario de Flora Isla de la Corota – Humedal Laguna de la Cocha*, the ADC guided its action through two basic premises: “We construct starting from the difference”¹⁸ and “Who knows not, loves not”¹⁹. This process of social construction was not free of obstacles and threats, nevertheless until this moment it did very well. The successful conservation efforts based on a vigorous and determined public participation are an excellent example for the integration and completion on different working scales. Their livelihoods have increased in quantity and quality. Capacity development led ADC members to increased political participation. At the interior of the organisation, disentangling and delegation characterise the governance.

For the Andean colonists in the colonisation zone adjacent to *Reserva de Biosfera y Territorio Indígena Pilon Lajas* in Bolivia, the access to land is one of the principal motivations to occupy the space, which in consequence leads to rain forest deforestation. The participation paradigm looking for the involvement of communities in protected area management seems to be inefficient because it is separated from the economic dimension. The search for production alternatives to deforestation is without doubt one of the priorities imposed to the promoters of protected area conservation. The locals need an appropriate

The foundation of *Reserva de Biosfera de las Yungas* in Argentina allowed the creation of certain processes. Various committees have been created, but they were not sustainable and, consequently, they are still not institutionalised. The richness of the territory and its resources in ecological, economic and cultural terms fed and founded diverse quests. Although these quests were diverse, all of them passed through the fight for power: territorial recognition, political positioning connected to this fight, political recognition, control of funds for conservation and development, economic positioning. The example of RBLY shows how difficult it is to match the agendas and objectives of so many different groups as managing directors, national and provincial representatives and autochthonous leaders. The NGOs pretend to breach the gap between all these actors, but they also have their own agenda and interests to defend.

The Costa Rican *Parque Nacional Tortuguero* faces a culture shock. The “white” culture stands for the establishment from the capital that arrived with the tourist trade, and the “black” culture represents the local Afro-Caribbean communities and illegal immigrants who share the lowest levels of society. The massive increase of tourism led to many consequences in the local population: a disorganisation of the community and a loss of identity due to the massive arrival of immigrants. A large number of local actors ask themselves about the transcendence of this situation. What will be the ethic values future generations inherit from them? Now they are the victims of an increase in tourism development: 100.000 annual visitors in a village of 1.200 inhabitants stand for mass tourism. Nevertheless, the success of the sea turtle conservation programme led to a considerable increase in the living standard of the local population. There is now a demand concerning participation in the management of natural resources opening the door for a community development plan based on an improvement of their living conditions: more equity, autonomy, security and sustainability.

The Ecuadorian *Reserva de Biosfera Yasuní* region shows strong social disturbances provoked by the multiplication of interventions from external agents who have changed the local social dynamics and the interests at play. This led to a situation of constant tension and conflict regarding the control and access to territory and natural resources. National and international organisations introduced the participation paradigm in the protected area management to achieve the conservation objectives. This continues to be a reflection of the dominant *mestizo* vision: the implementation of productive projects, such as eco or community tourism or breeding of poultry or cattle raising is an import part of production systems and consumption habits of the *mestizo* society, causing changes in the relation of the indigenous peoples to nature. In their discourse, the leaders of the Quichua and Waorani nations have assimilated the *mestizo* conceptions of biodiversity conservation and participation as a matter of gaining economic resources. Projects undertaken by national and

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international environmental organisations have configured the myth of the ecological indigenous guardian of nature. Nevertheless, exploitation and illegal extractive activities are daily practices in the Yasuní zone. The implementation of the participatory projects has not contributed to the improvement of the living conditions of the indigenous peoples, nor have they lowered the anthropogenic impact on the ecosystems, but they constitute an agent that modifies the social environment and creates economic differences between leaders and remaining community members. The participatory models of protected area management for RBY should start from a profound study of the cultural and social characteristics of the indigenous peoples living there.

The participation in *Reserva da Biosfera do Cinturão Verde da Cidade de São Paulo*

Grupo Semillas and ILSA (Instituto Latinoamericano de Servicios Legales Alternativos) 2007, “La IIRSA ¿Una propuesta integradora? Bogotá, 39 p.

Guerrero, E., Sguerra, S. and Rey, C. (eds.) 2007 “Áreas Protegidas en América Latina. De Santa Marta 1997 a Bariloche 2007”, Bogotá, Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia y Comité Colombiano UICN, 100 p.

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- UICN 2008, "Ecos de Bariloche: Conclusiones, Recomendaciones y Directrices de Acción", Quito, UICN, 8 p.
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