

Migration patterns and property rights variation on forest frontiers in the Peruvian Amazon

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Migration and Peru's Forest Frontiers

- ❖ Migration seen as key driver of deforestation in the Peruvian Amazon
- ❖ Lack of systematic information about migration, the characteristics of migrants or the actual effects of migration on forests

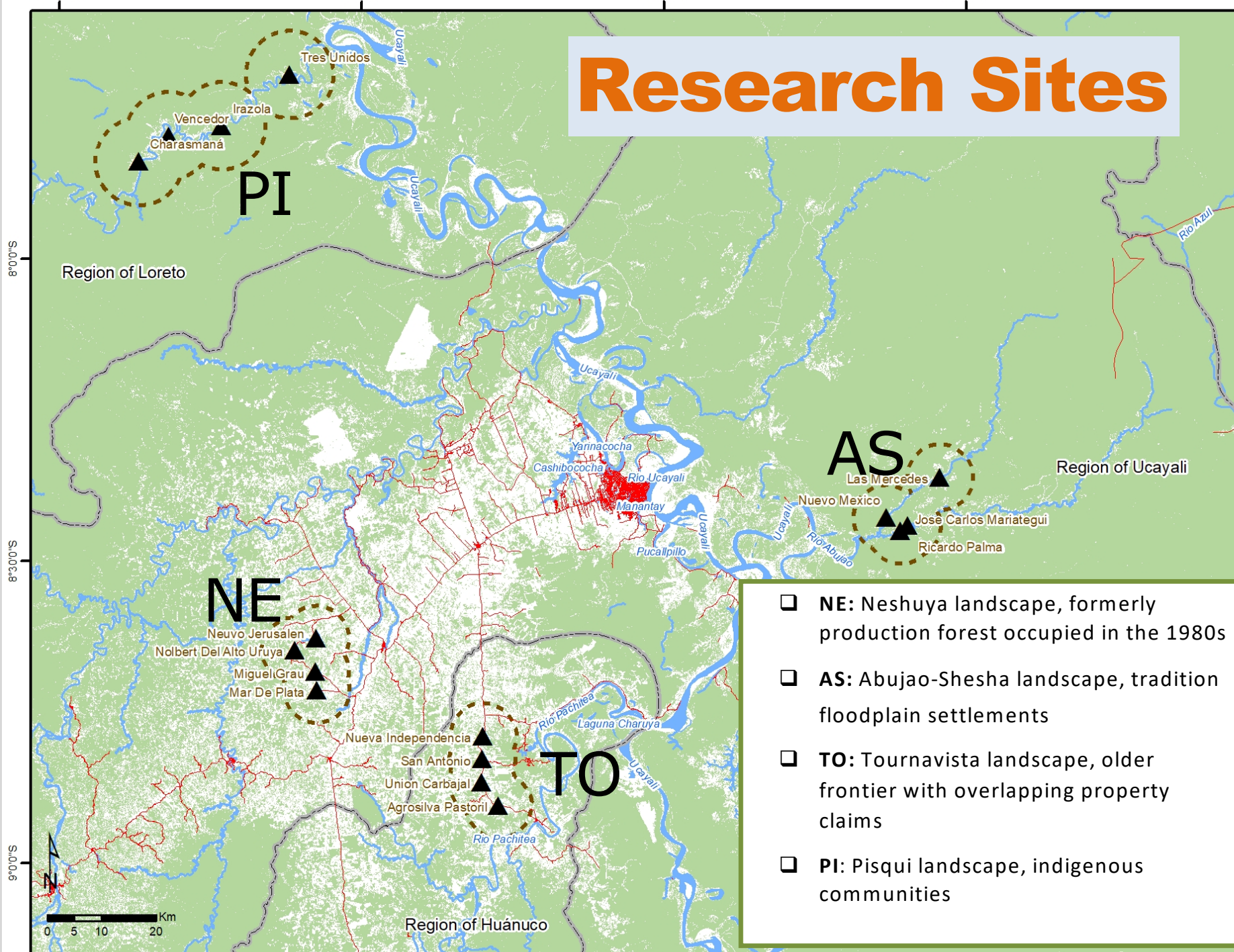


GLOBAL COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MIGRATION AND FORESTS



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Research Sites



Methodology



Focus Group Interviews

- 30 Focus groups (28 groups disaggregated by gender and 2 mixed groups)
- 200 participants

Systematic Survey

- 308 household interviews (30% of resident households)
- Landholders, landless and care takers

Key Informant Interviews



Observations from Focus Groups

❖ Occupation through spontaneous settlement

- Residents claim and demarcated properties on their own in collaboration with neighbors
- Forest lands targeted for occupation because seen as unused
- Only later did state enter to formalize property claims

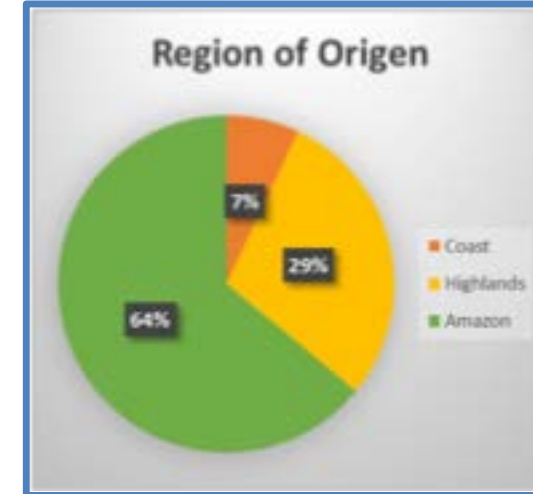
❖ Migration drivers

- Search for arable land
- Forced migration (terrorism and violence, natural disasters)
- Search for economic opportunity (wage labor, investment in land)
- Search for public services

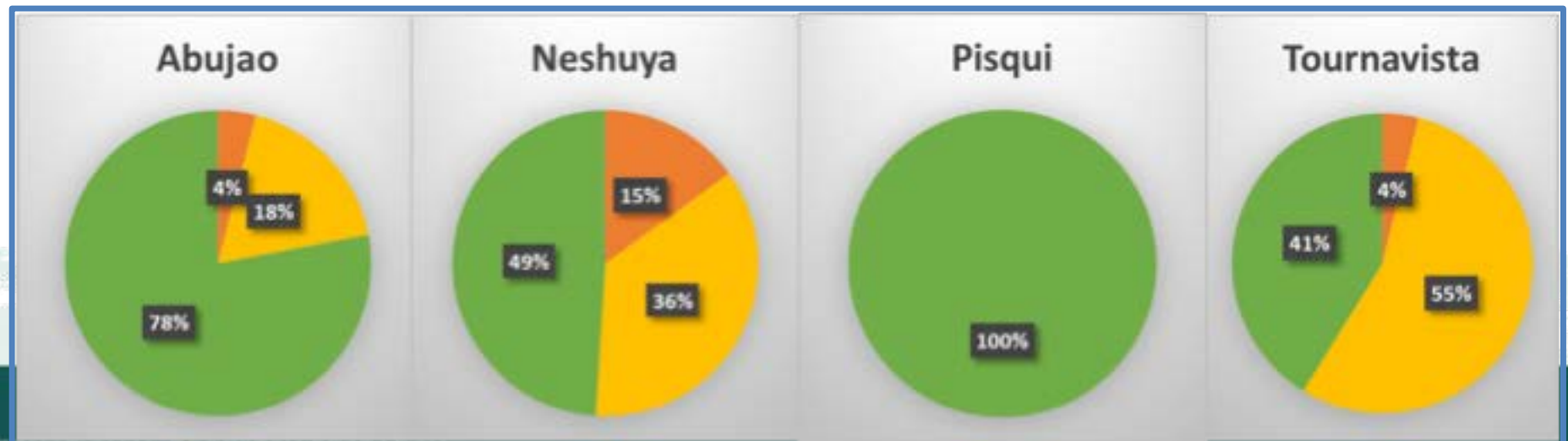


Survey Results 1

Origin of Informants



Distribution of 'Amazonians' varied





Survey Results 2

These were long term, stable settlements

- Average time informants have lived on site was 19yrs
- In PI the average was almost 3 decades
- Most villages initially settled in 1970s or 1980s
- AS landscape has longer history but was depopulated during civil unrest in 1980s and 1990s

Survey Results 3

Access to land was a main driver of migration

- Search for arable land cited as motivation for migration by most non-indigenous informants
 - NE: 67%, AS: 64%, TO: 58%
- Many non-indigenous informants had not been landless prior to migration
 - 47% had owned land at previous home
 - Of those, 50% owned less than 4 ha
 - 13 informants owned more than 50 ha





Survey Results 4

Most properties were small

- The average property size overall-- 34 ha
- Variation at landscape sites
 - **AS:** 44 ha, **NE:** 27 ha, **PI:** 5 ha, **TO:** 62 ha
- Largest individual properties -- up to 200 ha

Farming was major source of income

- Mixed agriculture/wage labor common
- Cacao prevalent source of income in NE
- Market access better in NE and TO

Estimated average monthly income

- **NE:**US\$455, **AS:** US\$178, **PI:** US\$123 **TO:** US\$324

Survey Results 5

Property rights varied in sample

Property rights:

- Ninguno
- Acuerdo comunal
- Constancia de posesión
- Compra y venta simple
- Título de Fujimori
- Compra venta notarial (TF)
- Compra venta notarial (IRP)
- Título (IRP)
- Derechos mixtos
- Otros

Formal rights varied across landscapes

- In NE 53% and AS 45% titled
- In TO 12% titled
- In PI communal title but individual plots



Survey Results 6



Perceptions of property rights security

Property rights perceived as secure. When informants were asked. . .

- Whether they felt secure
- Whether neighbors respected property limits
- Whether the State would defend their property rights
- When asked how property rights security had changed over the past five years
- 74% agreed or strongly agreed
- 88% agreed or strongly agreed
- 68% agreed or strongly agreed
- 89% believe security has stayed the same or improved



Discussion Questions

- 1. Could 'good enough tenure' arrangements be recognized by REDD+ programs?**
 - ❖ Depends on the REDD+ program
 - Carbon trading schemes would be a challenge
 - Policy reform (i.e. tenure security) could be successful
 - ❖ If the focus is on local engagement to improve forest governance



Discussion Questions

2. What are the limitations of 'good enough tenure' to support REDD+ development?

- ❖ Lack of information and high local heterogeneity
- ❖ Difficult for external proponents to design conditional systems
- ❖ Not impossible – but will require changing approaches



Discussion Questions

3. Is it realistic to expect 'good enough tenure' schemes to play a role in development?

Yes

- ❖ These stakeholders often have *de facto* possession of forest frontier areas
- ❖ These schemes are adapted to local conditions and capacities; reflect local perceptions.

Conclusions

- ❖ **Spontaneous settlement has produced grassroots agrarian reform**
 - ❖ State-lands occupied by migrants
 - ❖ Later state agencies formalize claims
- ❖ **Pattern results in forest conversion**
 - ❖ Much forestland owned by state
 - ❖ Forest perceived as unused
 - ❖ Titling focused on cleared land
- ❖ **Formal property rights were goal but elusive for many**
- ❖ **The lack of formal rights did not lower perceptions of security**



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