

Wherever the ecology is fragile, peace is fragile too. Resources must be shared to prevent conflicts. Time has arrived for our industrialized society to learn from the indigenous one, to incorporate moral values and develop an ecological understanding that is reflected in its social and economic measures. Knowledge should become a part of our way of life and post-modern man needs a new approach to development in which basic resources are protected and the survival of our planet is assured. Participatory management, adaptive mechanisms and regulations for accessing resources and attainment of a new set of conditions are the most sustainable and realistic ways of reaching solutions.

The spiritual significance of our territories is being lost. Only by better understanding natural phenomena and the effects of our 'toys', as the indigenous people call our technological developments, will we be able to gain a more respectful view of nature and, perhaps, recover the real meaning of our territories and lives.

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NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PEACE PROCESS IN COLOMBIA (1999-2002)

By Cristina Hoyos

This article summarizes a case study about natural resource management in Colombia. The country has been in a civil war for more than 40 years. Conflicts relating to the management of natural resources are rooted in economic, territorial, social and political problems. Economic problems include population growth, poverty, distribution of land, and state politics. Difficult social conditions are the result of migration, poverty, environmental degradation and violence, such as armed conflicts between left-wing guerrillas and right-wing paramilitary groups. To escape conflict, the population migrates into regions where land property rights are not defined or they settle in national parks. In these isolated regions the state is generally weak while other actors, such as illegal drug-traffickers, are strong.

The research was conducted in the *Parque Nacional Natural Tinigua*, or PNNT, over the years 2001 to 2004. This national park is located in the *Departamento Meta* in Colombia and is the only biological corridor that connects the Andes with the Amazon-Orinoco region. The World Bank classified it as an ecological region of strategic importance and accorded it the highest priority for protection because of the outstanding biological diversity. The park is threatened by misleading settlement policies, violent conflicts, cattle-ranching and illicit crop production.

PNNT is situated in the formerly demilitarized zone that was established as a result of the 1999–2002 peace process between FARC-EP (*Fuerzas Armadas de Colombia- Ejército Popular*) and the Colombian Government. After three years of negotiations, the peace process broke down on February 20th, 2002, and part of the research area was hit during the ensuing bombardment of the demilitarized zone.

The objective of the research was to analyse the use of natural resources in the conflict area of the PNNT in the context of the peace process (1999-2002), in economical, political and social aspects. An extended study of the literature on environmental conflict research failed to identify an adequate, single methodology that could help analyse the conflict in the PNNT. It was thus necessary to look into other disciplines that deal with conflict analysis. The field of international cooperation offered a range of methodologies and the following tools were selected as the most promising: Timeline, Conflict Mapping (both adapted by Fisher, *et al.*, 2000), and Conflict Tree. These research tools were applied at three different stages: before, during and after the peace process. The analysis, conducted by two different groups of the national park administration, the *Unidad Administrativa Especial del Sistema de Parques Nacionales*, was realised during a two-day workshop in the capital Bogotá because implementation in the field was deemed too risky for the researchers.

Results

With a few adaptations, all three tools offered complementary perspectives on the PNNT conflict. With the adaptation to this specific set of problems, however, some shortcomings emerged. Therefore, two new

tools were introduced:

- 1 Timeline Impact Assessment, or TIA, helped to analyze the chronology of the conflict, the multitude of the parties involved, the development of the relevant activities, the impact of the use of natural resources and identify the conflicts that rose as a result.
- 2 Conflict Mapping and Conflict Relation Intensity Mapping Evaluation, or CRIME, helped to describe the parties involved in the conflict, their relationships, and the intensity of these relationships in the different stages of the conflict. In turn, this helped to comprehend the quantitative, and to some degree the qualitative, characteristics of the conflict.
- 3 The Conflict Tree helped to unravel the cause of the conflict over the management of natural resources, which helped to define the core problem, and its effects. This instrument is used internationally in different research areas.

The resulting conflict analysis methodology and the selected tools combined can help local, national, and international institutions to better understand the parties involved in conflicts over the use of natural resources and the nature of their problems. In view of the threat that natural resources and biodiversity are exposed to as a result of violent conflict or war, it is necessary to develop close cooperation between local scientific institutions and international organisations and, together, develop efficient and long-lasting conflict resolution strategies.

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CONSERVATION AS COUNTER INSURGENCY IN THE CHIAPAS RAINFOREST?

By Bill Weinberg

The bush plane takes off from Ocosingo, where the Chiapas highlands slope down to the tropical rainforest known as the Lacandon Selva—stronghold of Mexico's rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN). We leave behind paved roads and the electricity grid, heading into the verdant canyonlands of what remains a wild frontier, a stretch of jungle along the Guatemalan border only partly under government control. And we are flying into the deepest and most hotly contested part of it—the Montes Azules Biosphere Reserve, recognized by the UN Environment Program for its global biological and cultural significance.

The land below is a patchwork of forest and areas cleared for cattle ranches and peasant communities. But as we head south into Montes Azules, the forested areas grow. We land at Nuevo San Gregorio, a Maya Indian settlement on the edge of the reserve—a cluster of huts in a green valley, the forest a short walk in any direction, and

a day's walk from the nearest road. The church is brightly painted with a mural depicting village life and jungle animals as well as the obligatory Virgin of Guadalupe. Bright green guacamayas soar overhead and howler monkeys cry from the trees. The church and schoolhouse have solar panels; there is no other electricity.

Nicolas Morales Palé, one of the community leaders, brings us out to the cornfield and boasts of the settlement's ecological program. He says they gave up slash-and-burn agriculture ten years ago and have learned a method of rotation that allows them to survive without eating into the forest. Then he passionately grabs a piece of soil and holds it out to us, so we can see its richness for ourselves. "We will die here if we have to," he says. "The women, the children, everybody. We're not leaving alive. We will shed our own blood on this land. We are going to stay here because this land is for the campesinos."

Although there is no government presence whatsoever in this remote settlement, army troops are now stationed in a ring around the biosphere reserve, awaiting orders to eject the "illegal" Indian communities. Since they emerged in the 1994 Zapatista rebellion, the jungle "autonomous municipalities" loyal to the rebels have been protected by the cease-fire. Now President Vicente Fox is preparing to move against the settlements—in the name of ecology.

Ecology groups working in the reserve like Conservation International say "illegal" jungle settlements like Nuevo San Gregorio are destroying the forest. But in the New Years communique commemorating their 1994 uprising, the EZLN's Subcomandante Marcos pledged that the rebels will resist