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THE ECONOMIC COSTS AND BENEFITS OF SECURING COMMUNITY FOREST TENURE: EVIDENCE FROM BRAZIL AND GUATEMALA

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Economic analysis and securing community rights

- *Securing Rights, Combating Climate Change* (2014): deforestation rates were significantly lower in legally recognized and protected community forests than in forests outside those areas
- Economic analysis useful to identify and quantify value of benefits and costs; helpful in decision making and prioritization of projects
- Results suggest that, in the study areas, the economic benefits of securing community forest tenure outweigh the costs
- Challenges
 - Estimates are modest approximation of complete benefit-cost accounting
 - Data-collection constraints: addressing them could lay the groundwork for a deeper understanding of the net economic gains from community forests
 - Transparency of data: Investing in improved efforts for monitoring and evaluation of community forests could be an important first step

Objectives and methodology

- **Objective**

Investigate what are the costs compared to the benefits of securing and maintaining community forest tenure for community forest areas in Brazil and Guatemala?

- **Methodology**

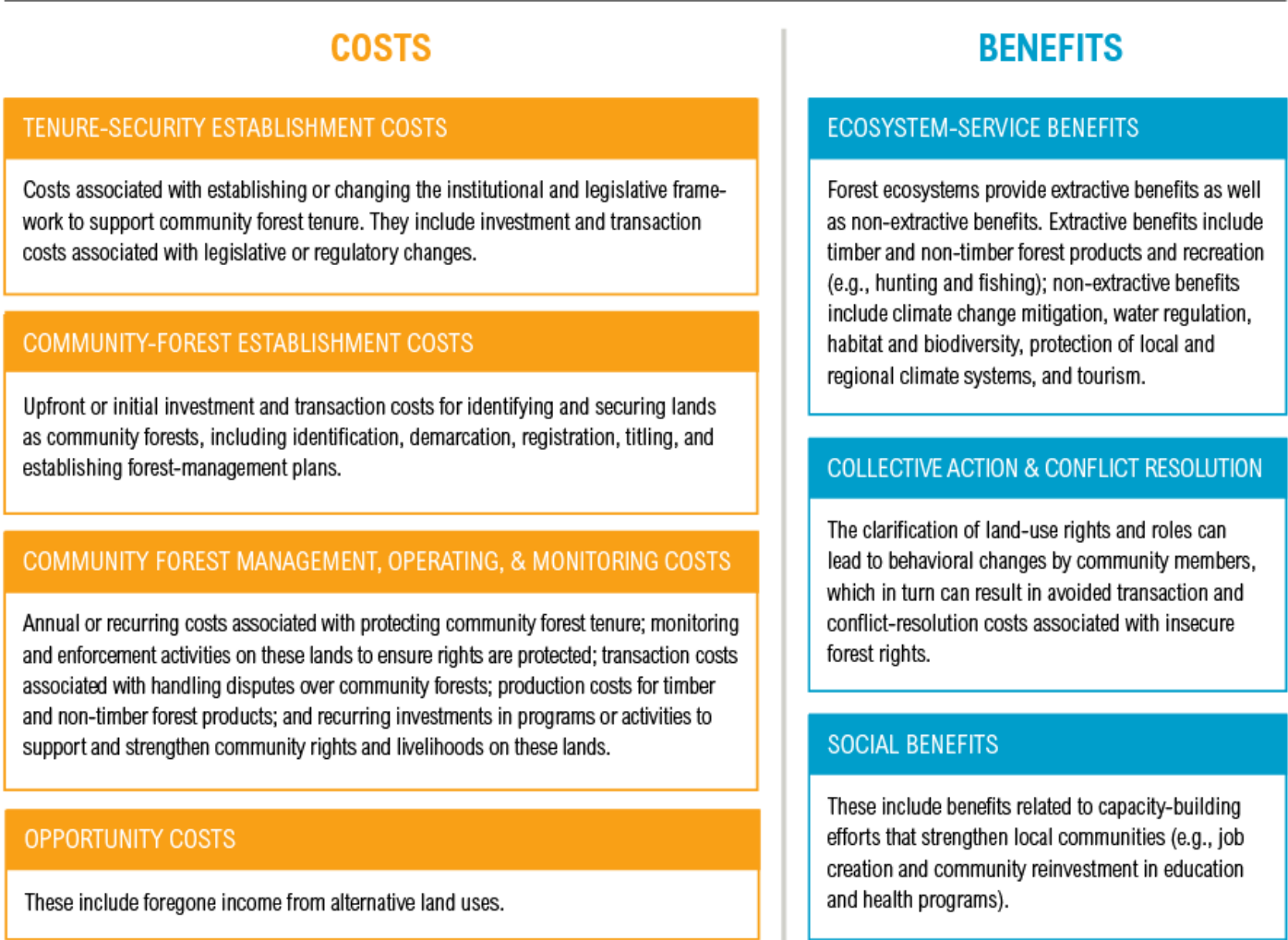
- identify and describe the applicable costs and benefits associated with securing and maintaining secure tenure
- Conduct benefit-cost analysis to estimate the net economic benefits from community forests

- **Project components**

- Economic Analysis: Working paper (Oct. 2015) – Brazil, Guatemala, and Mexico; Report (May 2016) – Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador
- Global Platform

Economic costs and benefits: Community forest tenure

Figure ES-1 | [Title Goes Here](#)



Site visit (Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve)

- Link economic analysis with evidence from concessions at the Reserve
- Interaction with stakeholders show that other uses (agriculture, cattle) are less profitable than sustainable management of forest (highest value)
- Source of income from timber, timber products (furniture), non-timber products (fruits, nuts, plants)
- Community interested in improving local livelihoods (income, jobs, better infrastructure and services) rather than in profits and business expansion
- Retribution for high global benefits (Guatecarbon Project, REDD+)

Concluding remarks

- Analysis show that secure community forest tenure is a potential good “investment” as a solution to tackling climate change
- Community forests generate variety of economic benefits, environmental services and behavioral changes (conflict resolution, societal reinvestments); need further economic analysis to show more accurate value of these
- Potentially a cost-effective solution if compared to technology based solutions (comparison not developed in the paper)
- Extension to Amazon region (Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador)

THANK YOU!

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