

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

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- **New scenarios still largely analyzed through outdated development lenses that do not sufficiently incorporate new territorial realities, and thus hamper the formulation of equitable and sustainable policies**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**

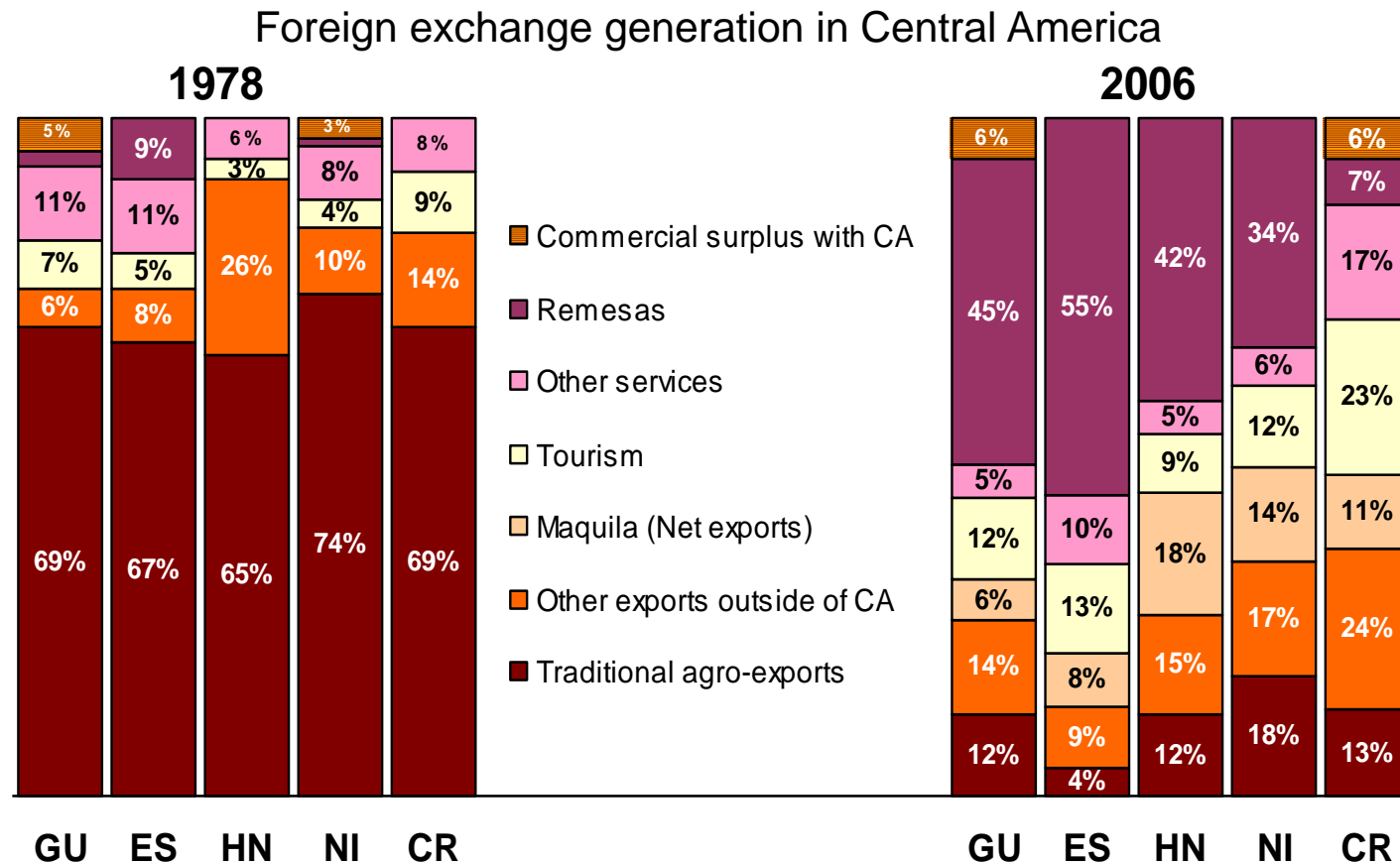


Regional transitions drive new territorial dynamics:

- **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.)**



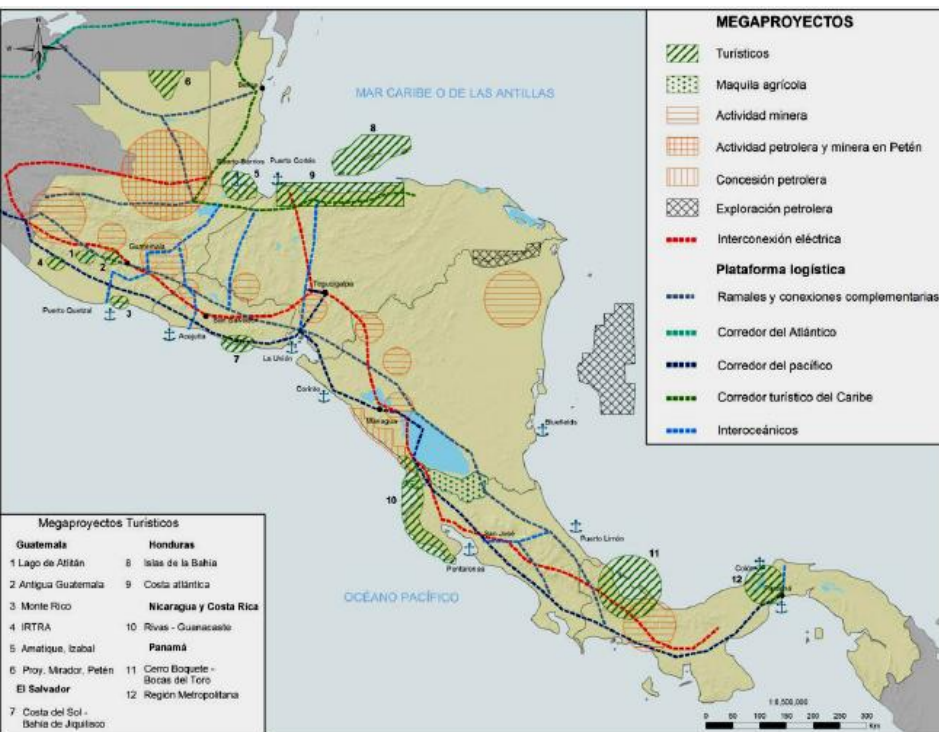
New economic models bring new rural realities: From traditional agro-exports to remittances, tourism and maquila



- 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 del sistema.



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

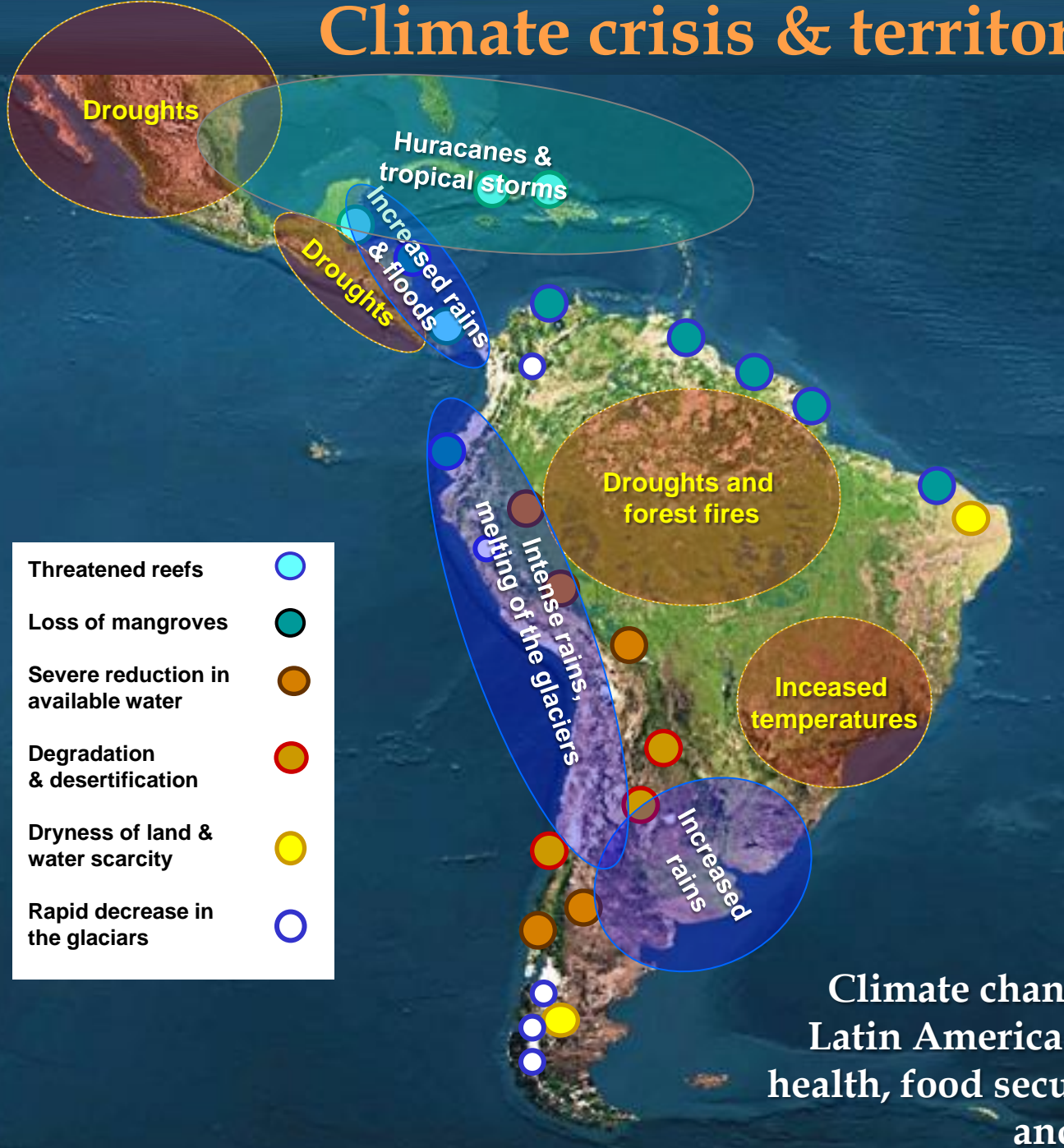








An explosive situation:

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



Climate crisis & territorial dynamics



- Threatened reefs 
- Loss of mangroves 
- Severe reduction in available water 
- Degradation & desertification 
- Dryness of land & water scarcity 
- Rapid decrease in the glaciers 

Temperature
From 0.5°-0.8°C (20th century) & between 2°-6°C by end of 21st century



Climatic Events
The number of extreme events more than doubled since 1970

Economy
Loss of 10% of GNP from disasters in the Andean countries



Population
Disasters cause more than 3,500 deaths & affect more than 1 million persons

Health
Increase in diseases: malaria, dengue, cholera, ...



Agriculture
Fall of between 12%-50% of food production to 2010 (↑ food crisis)



Ecosystems y Biodiversity
The Amazon forest could be reduced by 20%-80% in the 21st century



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

Climate responses & territorial disputes

New opportunities derived from the emergent markets associated with climate change mitigation (CDM, REDD and agro fuels)

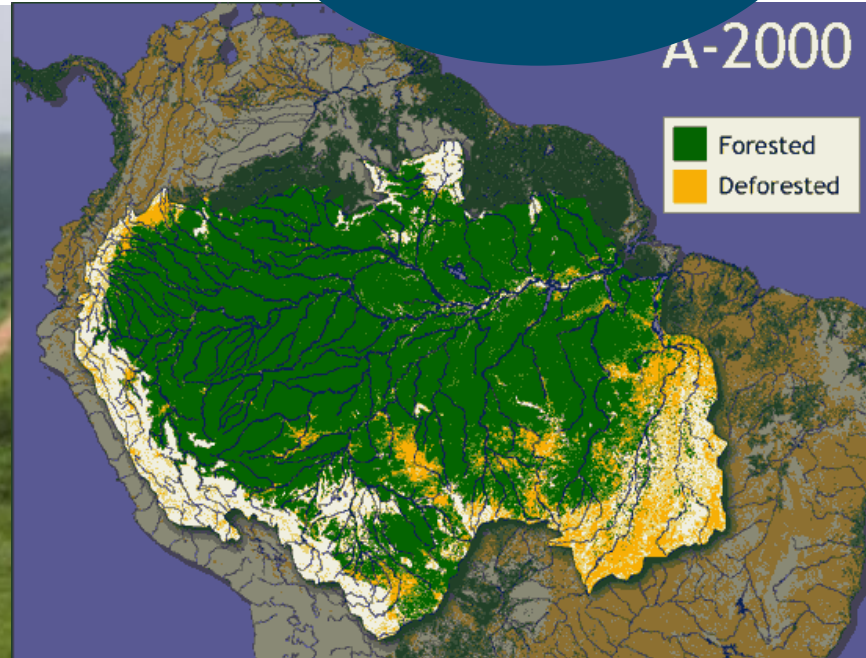
Mitigation initiatives delinked from adaptation

Production of agrofuels:

A cure worse than the disease

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

REDD:
An opportunity or a threat?



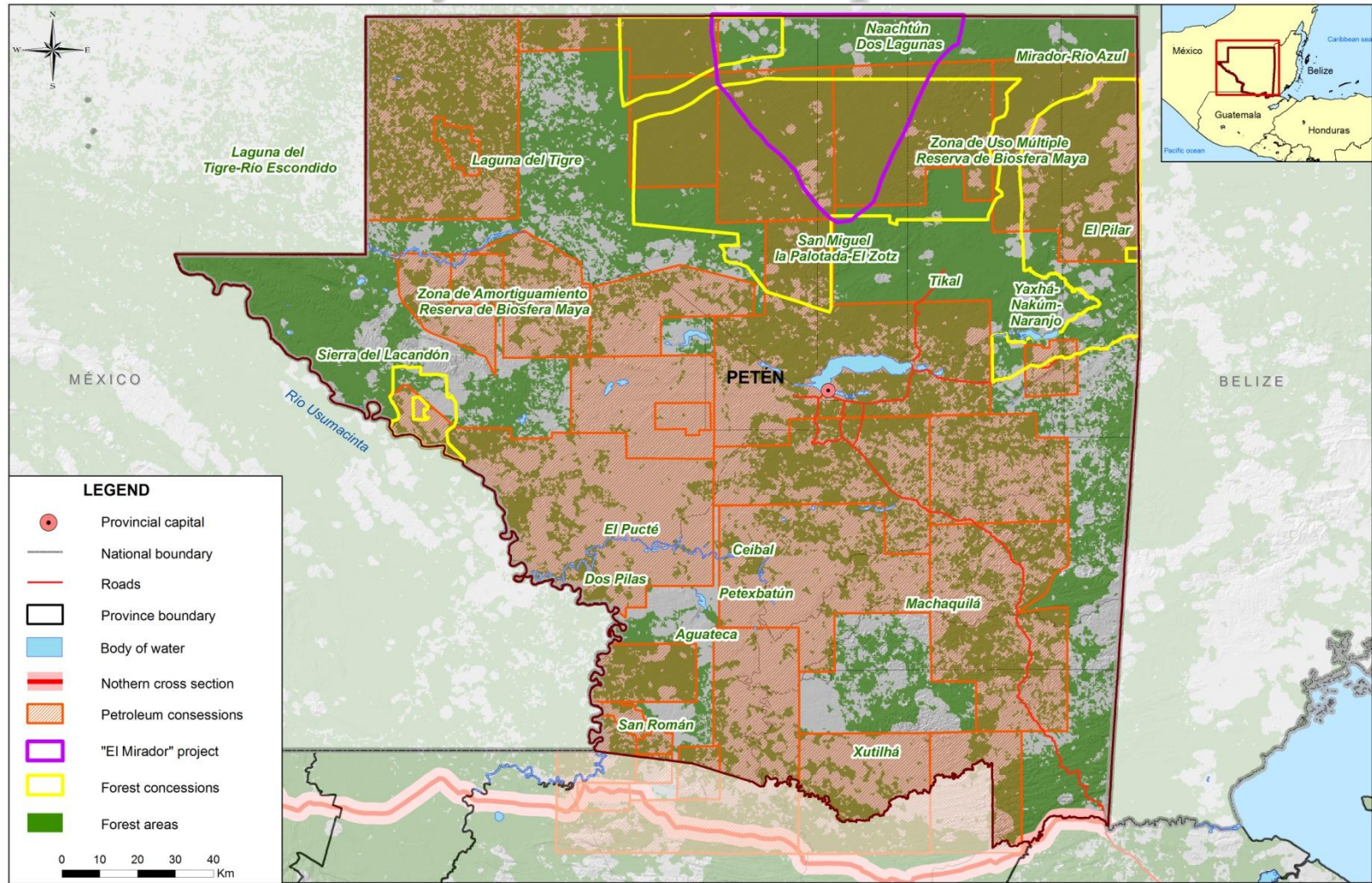
How does this play out in specific territories of Latin America?



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



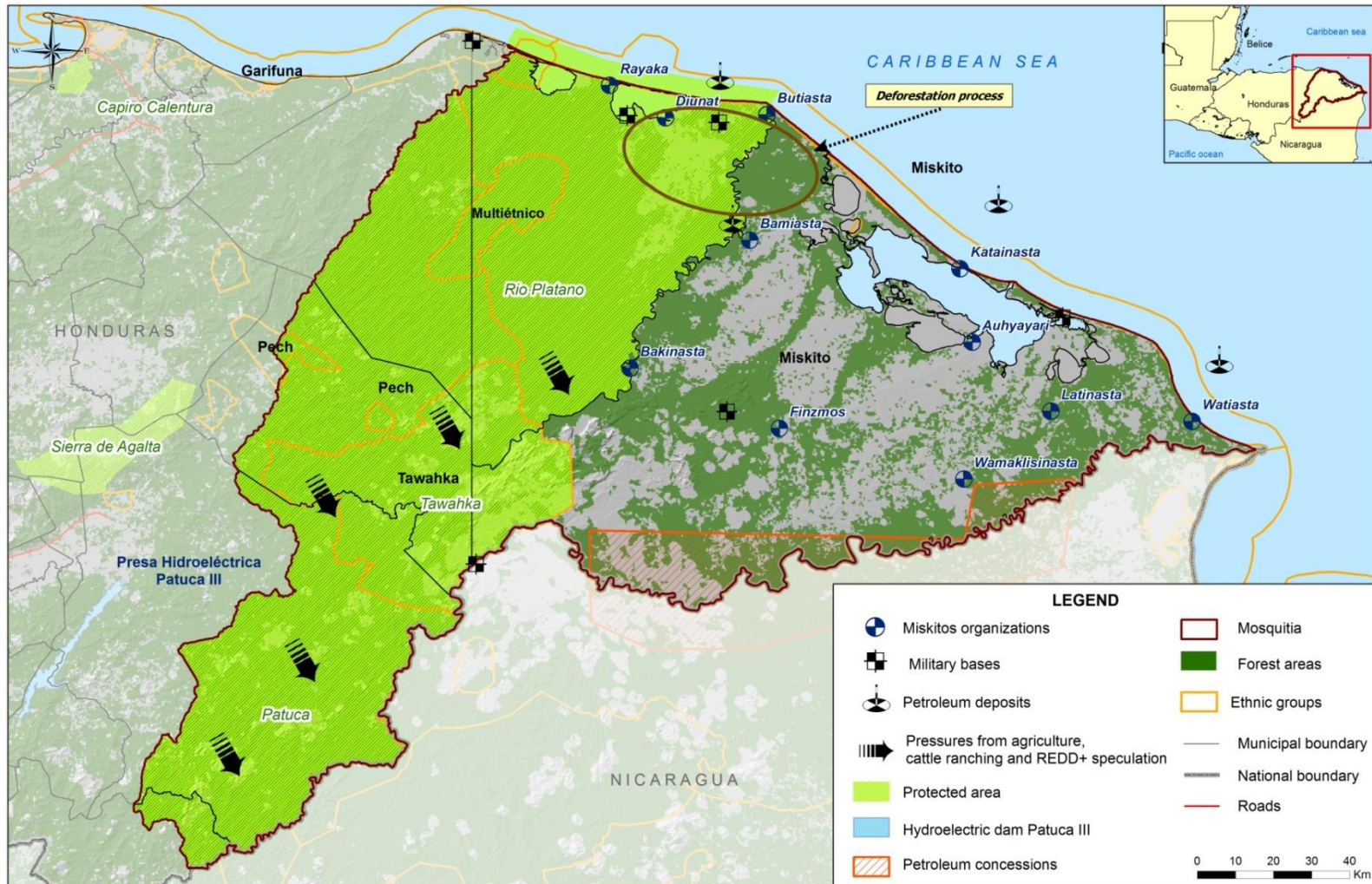
Guatemala: Territorial dynamics & disputes in Peten



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



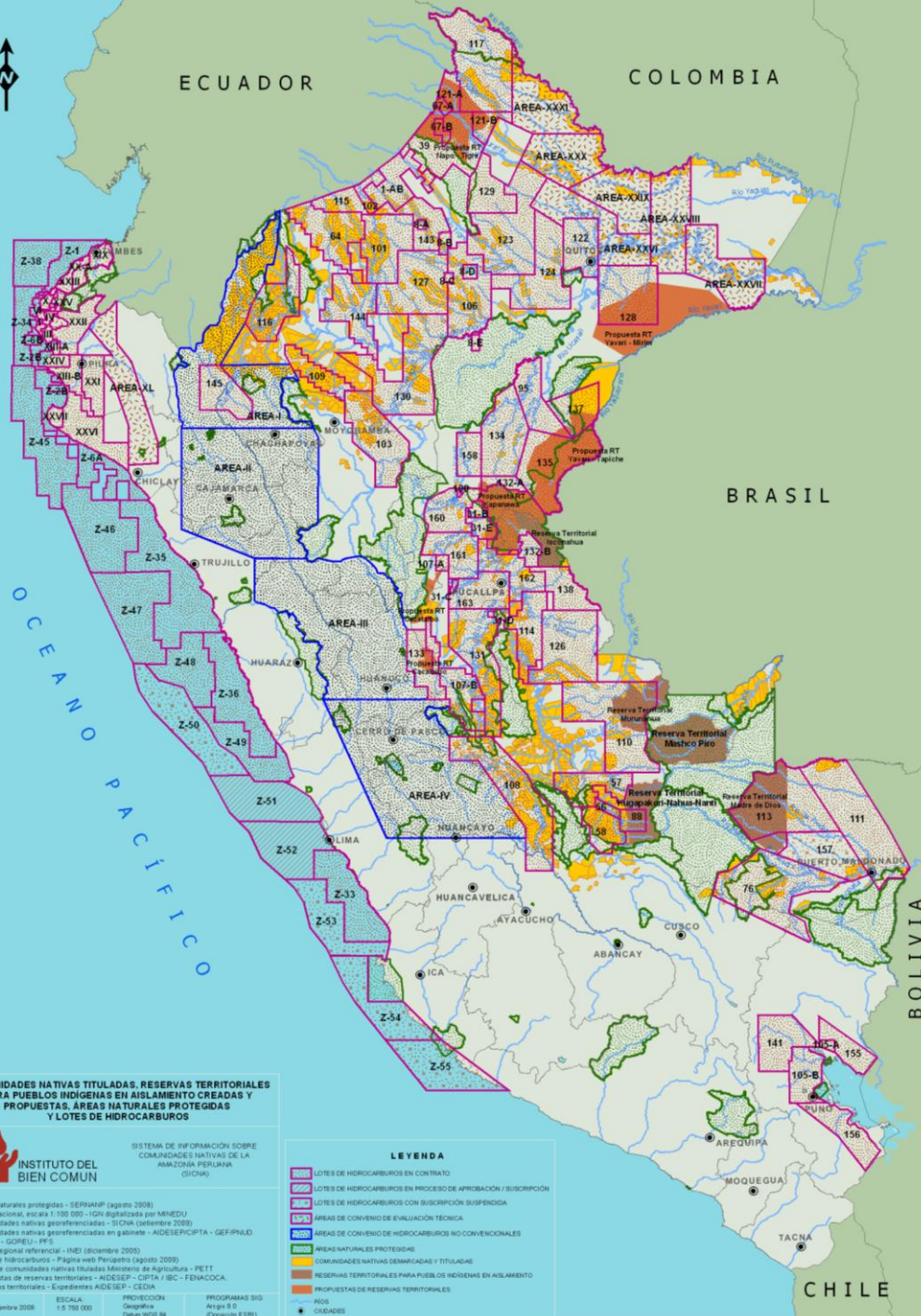
Honduras: Territorial dynamics & disputes in Mosquitia



Petroleum, hidro-electric projects, REDD, invasions, conservation, narco-trafficking, inter alia



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 - 1st will inundate 40,000 hectares
- Gold fever & ravaged rivers – in 338,000 ha. of Madre de Dios, 1500+ mining rts
- Biofuels, REDD, ...

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

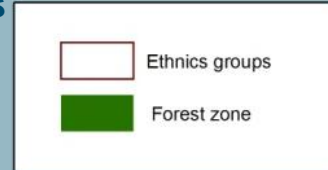
- Economic growth without equity undermines social cohesion
- Physical integrity of inhabited vs. empty landscapes
- Revaluing the role indigenous and peasant communities play in natural resource management and governance

New paradigms requires centering on expanding rights



The Mesoamerican Community Carbon Initiative:

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



CARIBBEAN SEA

Strategic role of indigenous peoples and forest communities:

A large portion of the regions forests fall within indigenous territories and/or areas of community management, these are the best managed forests but also 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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