

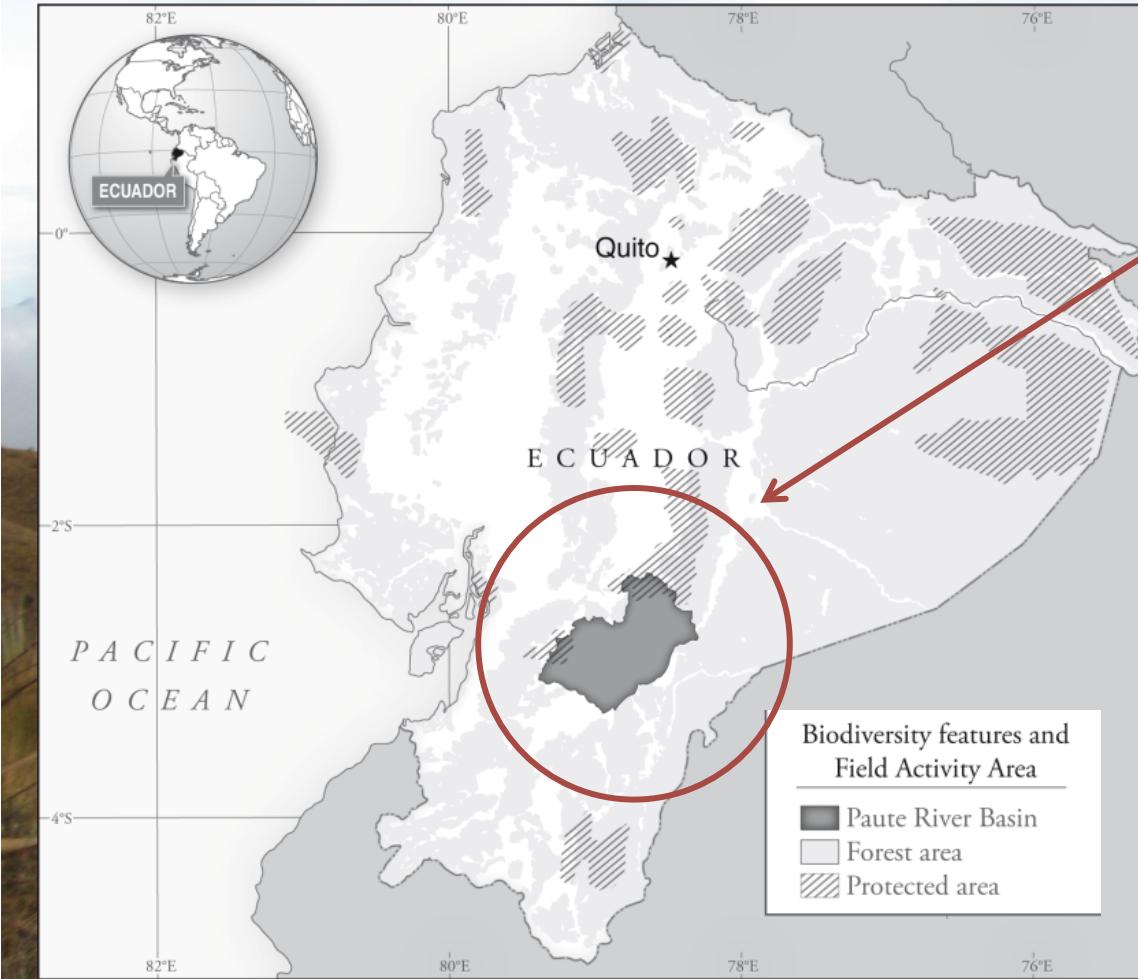
# A case study of market-based conservation tools in Ecuador



Catherine Schloegel

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# The Paute River Basin is located in the Andes of south-central Ecuador



**Area:** 643,600 hectares

**Population:** 900,000 inhabitants

**Elevational range:** 2,500 meters to 4,800 meters

**Ecosystems:** montane forests and páramo grasslands



The region hosts the largest hydroelectric dam in Ecuador.



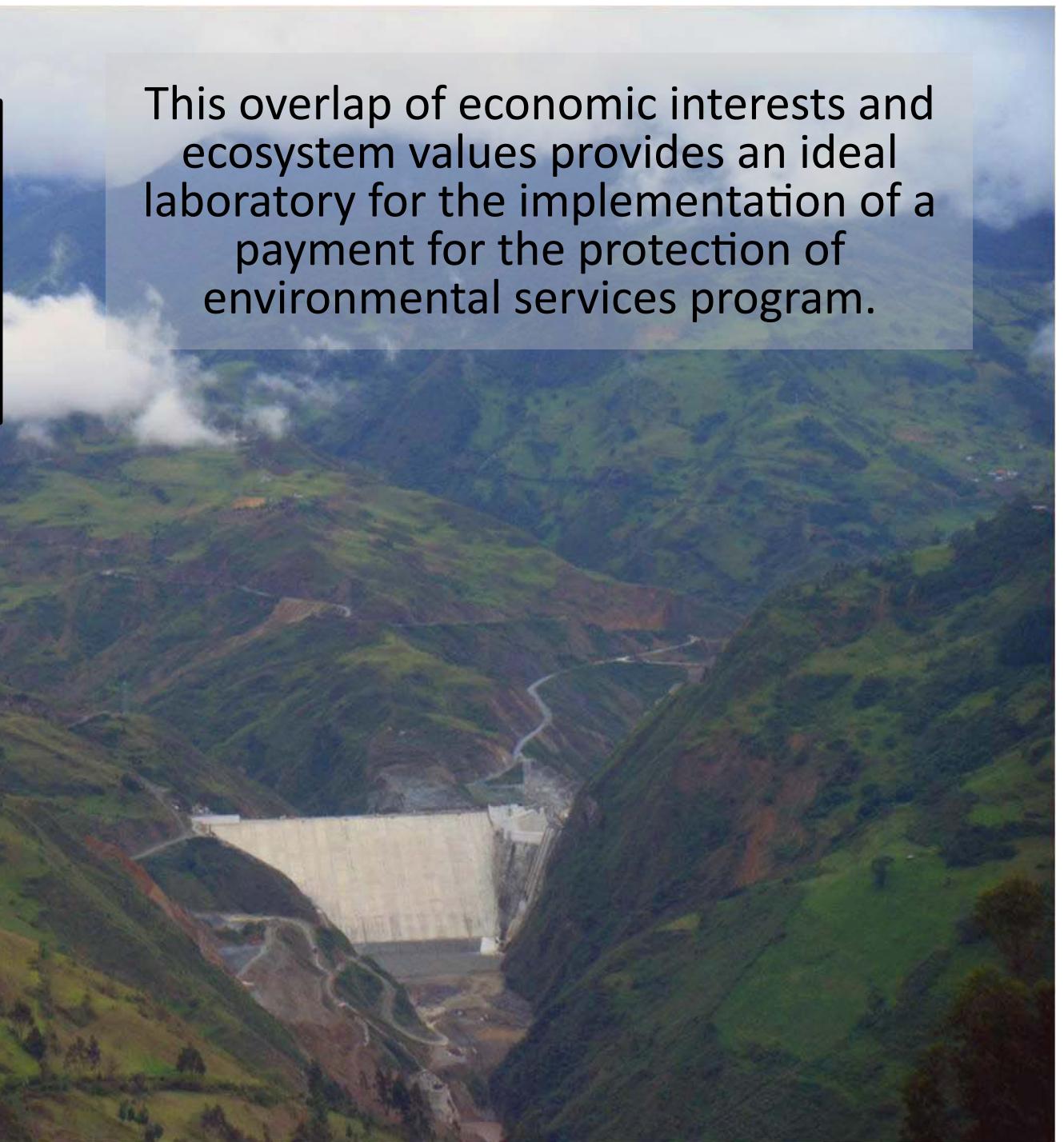
Scientists consider this region within the eastern Andes to be an **“epicenter of biodiversity”**.

An aerial photograph of a steep mountain slope covered in dense green forest. The terrain descends into a valley at the bottom, where there are patches of cleared land and small settlements. Two red arrows point upwards from the text box towards the forested mountain slope.

Cattle ranching is the principle economic activity and threat to the long-term conservation of the region.



This overlap of economic interests and ecosystem values provides an ideal laboratory for the implementation of a payment for the protection of environmental services program.



*Conservar los bosques nativos tiene su recompensa*

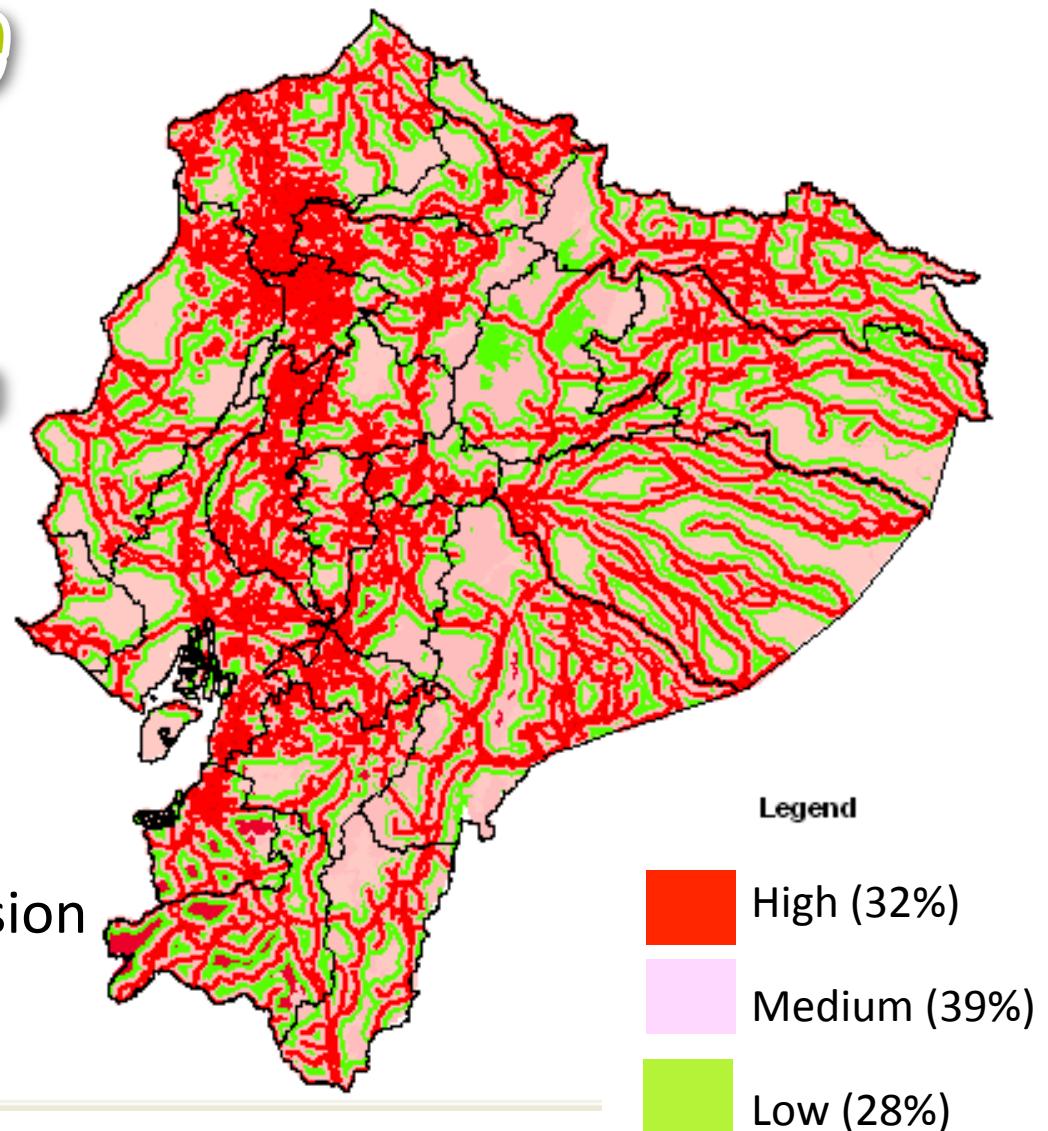
# SocioBosque



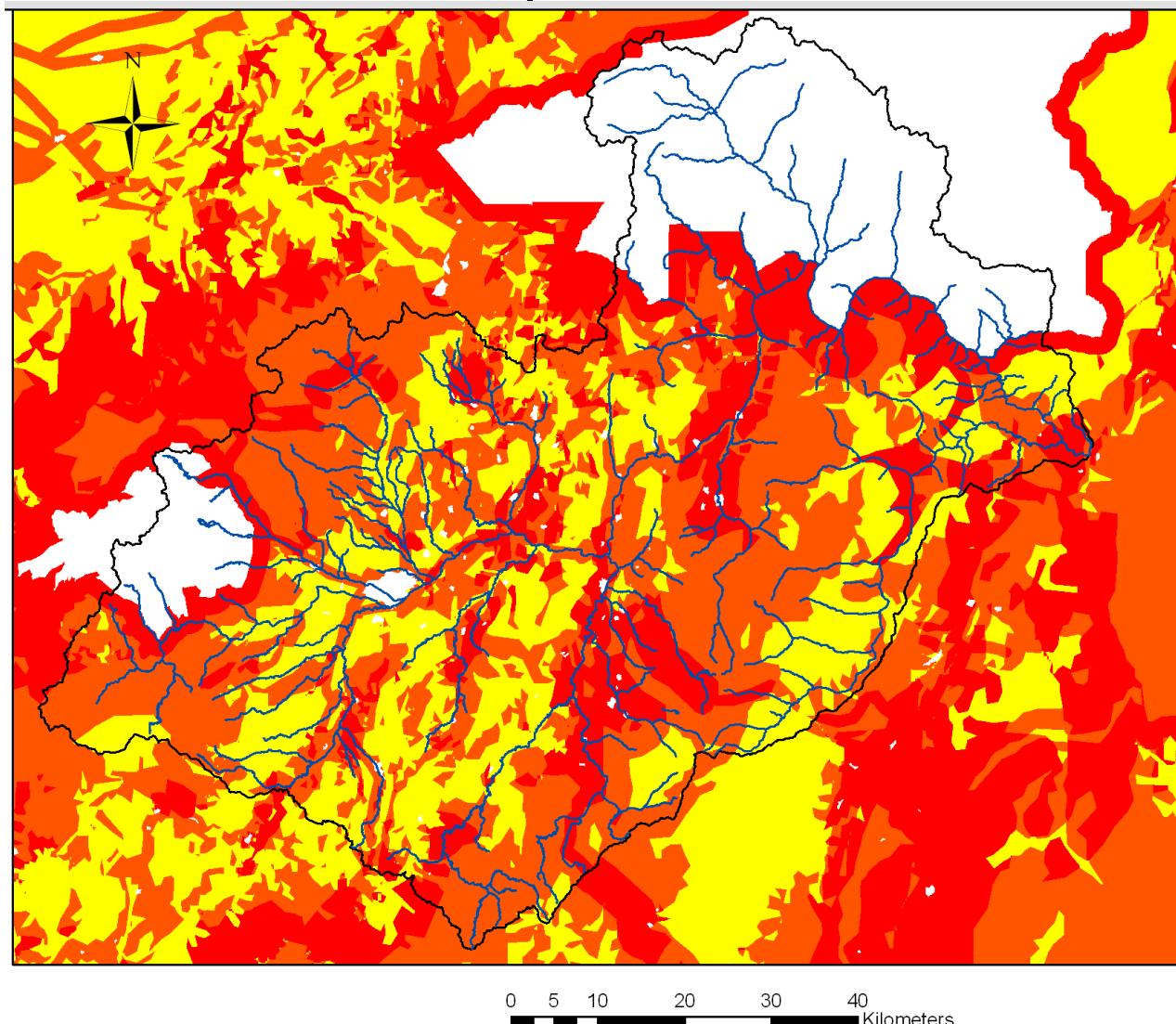
*Programa de protección de bosques*

## Priorities:

1. Threat level
2. Environmental service provision
3. Poverty level



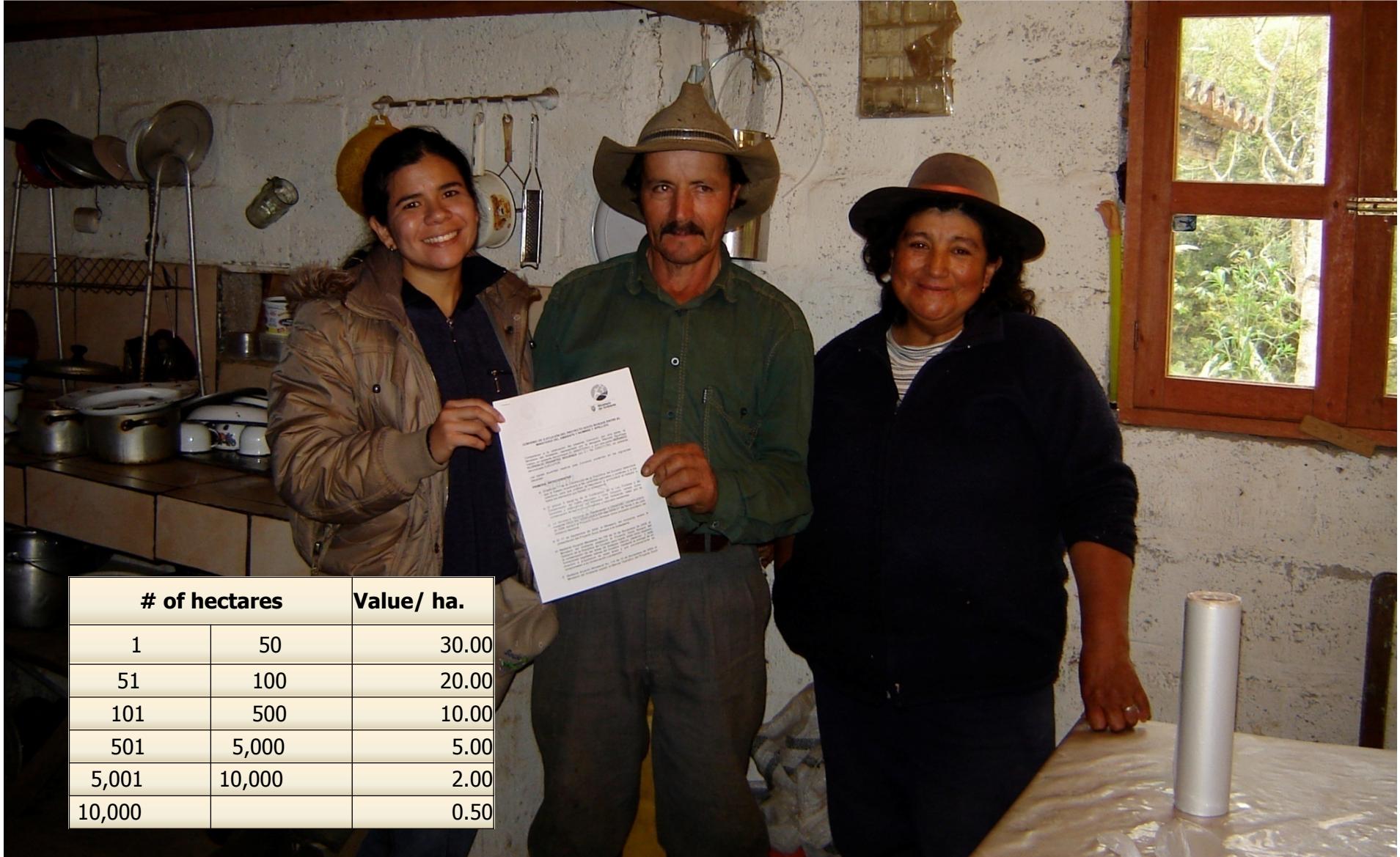
Socio Bosque does not rank conservation priorities in the entire Paute River Basin. It excludes analysis within existing protected areas.





Conservation non-profit organizations partnered with Socio Bosque to promote the program in priority areas where regional and national conservation goals overlapped.

Landowners like Don Alejo and Doña Odalia enrolled in Socio Bosque. They conserve 150 hectares and receive \$3000/year ( $\$30 \times 50 + \$20 \times 50 + \$10 \times 50$ ) in direct payments for conservation.



Overall, heterogeneous land titling practices limit participation to less than 20% (of total participating lands) outside the indigenous Amazonian region, suggesting that program rules may systematically favor indigenous participation over their *mestizo* peers.





Only 0.75% of total enrolled Socio Bosque participating properties are found in the Paute River Basin. In this region, Socio Bosque has rejected 89% of pre-enrolled applicants.



Indigenous residents hold government issued land titles to communal and individual land. They can participate in Socio Bosque, but are often reticent to participate in government programs, fearful of the motives.



Many *mestizo* residents hold *ad corpus* property titles without an accompanying georeferenced property map. These land titles are systematically denied participation in the Socio Bosque program.

# REDD-iness?



# Lessons from the field



Bottom-up learning from local initiatives confers valuable lessons and should be encouraged.

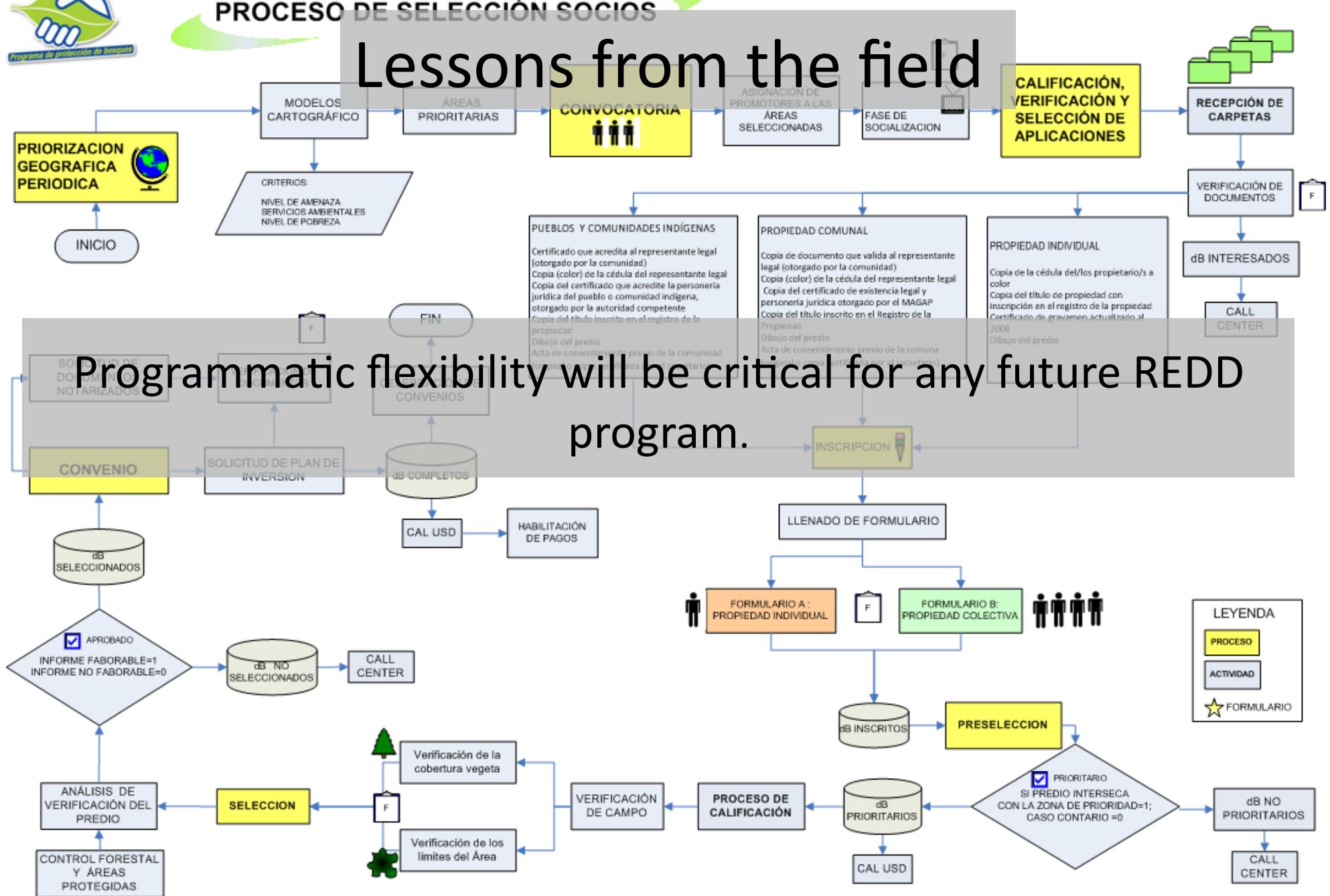


# Lessons from the field

Planning for a national REDD program should assess institutional readiness.

## PROCESO DE SELECCIÓN SOCIOS

# Lessons from the field



# Conclusions



In the Paute River Basin, a strong case exists for the conservation of environmental services, but currently land titling irregularities preclude the majority of local participation.



Muchas gracias.

Catherine.schloegel@gmail.com