

Article

Endurance and Adaptation of Community Forest Management in Quintana Roo, Mexico

Edward A. Ellis ^{1,*}, Karen A. Kainer ², José Antonio Sierra-Huelsz ², Patricia Negreros-Castillo ³, Dawn Rodriguez-Ward ⁴ and Maria DiGiano ⁵

¹ Centro de Investigaciones Tropicales, Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa, Veracruz 91090, Mexico

² School of Forest Resources and Conservation and the Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA; E-Mails: kkainer@ufl.edu (K.A.K.); jashpat@gmail.com (J.A.S.-H.)

³ Instituto de Investigaciones Forestales, Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa, Veracruz 91090, Mexico; E-Mail: pnegreros@uv.mx

⁴ Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Lima 1158, Peru; E-Mail: d.tward@cgiar.org

⁵ Earth Innovation Institute, San Francisco, CA 94110, USA; E-Mail: mdigiano@earthinnovation.org

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed; E-Mail: ellis_eddie@yahoo.com or eellis@uv.mx; Tel.: +52-228-810-8263.

Academic Editors: Wil de Jong, Pia Katila and Glenn Galloway

Received: 15 September 2015 / Accepted: 11 November 2015 / Published: 23 November 2015

Abstract: Despite regional deforestation threats, the state of Quintana Roo has maintained over 80% of its territory in forests. Community forest management (CFM) has played a pivotal role in forest cover and biodiversity conservation in the region. In this article, we present the institutional, socioeconomic and environmental conditions under which community-based forest management has been consolidated in the tropical state of Quintana Roo, which occupies the eastern half of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. With a focus on management for timber and other market-based development strategies, we then examine the institutional and socioeconomic factors, as well as biophysical shocks, that have constrained community forestry development in the past 25 years, challenging its persistence. Following, we discuss how forest communities and institutions have responded and adapted to changing forest policies and markets as well as major environmental shocks from hurricanes and fires. CFM in Quintana Roo has shown resiliency since its institutionalization 30 years ago. Future challenges and opportunities include biodiversity conservation, carbon management through Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation