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INTRODUCTION

The University of Florida's Tropical Conservation and Development Program houses the Governance and Infrastructure in the Amazon (GIA) project, which is made possible with funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. GIA works with conservation partner organizations in different regions of the Amazon with mosaics of protected areas and indigenous lands that are incurring infrastructure planning and investments. The goals of GIA are to foster knowledge and information exchanges among conservation partners and to evaluate conservation practices, in a community of practice and learning (CoP-L) about governance of infrastructure in the Amazon.

To that end, GIA has organized workshops and other activities with conservation partners to compile knowledge and information about governance and infrastructure. One activity involves timelines of events and processes in each of the regions where GIA conservation partners work. Timelines are a way to visualize histories in specific regions. Compilation of events and processes allows for identification of sequences of events and historical contingencies to understand changes in governance of infrastructure over time. Construction of timelines across regions permits comparisons of different histories across the Amazon.

In 2019, GIA organized workshops with conservation partners in each of four regions of the Amazon: Loreto (Peru), the Upper Madera (Bolivia-Brazil), Southern Amazonas and Northern Rondonia (Brazil), and Colombian Amazon (Colombia). Each workshop included participants from governments, NGOs, universities, communities, and other social actors. In each workshop, participants collectively constructed timelines of events and processes that facilitated or impeded governance of infrastructure.

From the workshop timelines, the GIA team created analytical timeline figures in a common format. The analytical timelines focus on the time period from 2000 to 2019. These timelines differentiate between events and processes operating on different scales, from the local to the regional, the national and the international. The GIA team adopted a shared color scheme to differentiate among types of events and processes, including public policies, infrastructure projects, infrastructure impacts, environmental setbacks, and collective action.

The team also offers interpretive elements related to "good" and "bad" govenance and to key lessons from each timeline, as well as emergent questions that came up from the analysis. Our intent is to call attention to patterns and sequences of events and processes for interpretive discussion with conservation partners and other stakeholders about prospects for governance of infrastructure. This report thus uses timelines as a tool to stimulate reflection and discussion about governance of infrastructure in the Amazon. The timelines we report are not complete or definitive histories, but rather are selective of the experiences and priorities of workshop participants and the perspectives of the GIA team. We hope the timeline figures and narratives provoke further reflection and discussion that leads to new insights. These can serve the larger goal of improving the effectiveness of conservation strategies and practice with regard to governance of infrastructure in the Amazon.

COLOMBIAN AMAZON (COLOMBIA)

30 participants: 10 from government, 3 from local communities, 10 from NGOs, 1 from local university, and 6 from University of Florida.

SOUTHERN AMAZONAS -NORTHERN RONDONIA (BRAZIL)

4REGIONS

35 participants: 10 from local universities, 11 from NGOs, 2 indigenous leaders, 3 grassroots leaders, 2 from a state-level and local government agencies, and 7 from University of Florida.

LORETO (PERU)

56 participants: 17 from different offices of the regional government, 3 from local universities, 2 from national government, 4 representatives of Protected Areas Management Committees, 1 representative of indigenous organization, 21 from NGOs, and 8 from the University of Florida.

UPPER MADERA (BOLIVIA-BRAZIL)

42 participants: 17 from six Bolivian and Brazilian universities, 12 from grassroots and indigenous community groups, 5 from NGOs, and 8 from University of Florida.



How were timelines constructed?

There was a participatory process in each mosaic workshop. Participants indicated key events relevant to governance and infrastructure on post-it notes and placed them on the timeline. They then discussed the events noted, which led to identification of some additional events and processes. The details of the methods differed slightly among workshops. In some cases, participants were divided up into groups by thematic areas. Workshop timelines also varied in their length.

The thematic focus of workshop timelines varied as a reflection of the composition of the participants. Whereas the Upper Madera workshop had many university and community participants, the Colombia workshop had relatively few community participants and several government representatives.

Timelines are thus intended to be reflective of participants rather than definitive histories. We should all view timelines as living documents on which members of the Community of Practice and Learning (CoP-L) can comment.

TIMELINE UPPER MADERA



TIMELINE LORETO



TIMELINE SOUTHERN AMAZONAS-NORTHERN RONDONIA



COLOMBIAN AMAZON



COLOMBIAN AMAZON (COLOMBIA)

Peace process accords have led to new threats to forests and indigenous groups over the past five years, highlighting debates over infrastructure governance.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TIMELINES

SOUTHERN AMAZONAS -NORTHERN RONDONIA (BRAZIL)

Federal policies are central to infrastructure development and environmental governance.



LORETO (PERU)

Decentralization and regional advancements in environmental governance (including policies for informed consent) that emerged by 2007 facilitated improvements in governance, but these were undermined by 2016.

UPPER MADERA (BOLIVIA-BRAZIL)

Infrastructure in a binational frontier required high-level agreements to advance dams, but there is a lack of binational governance for existing and planned infrastructure. Grassroots organizing, including collaboration across boundaries, emerged as a strategy to resist dams. Analysis of the timelines suggested some common themes and factors that contributed to good governance in the Amazon:



RECOGNITION OF COMMON INTERESTS



GOVERNANCE



PROCESS

CROSS-SCALE COLLABORATION

Local stakeholders who recognize common interests and actively collaborative RECOGNITION **OF COMMON INTERESTS**

COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT **OF NATURAL** RESOURCES

> The decentralization process from national to regional levels can allow for regional governments to have agency to manage their territory according to the reality of each region

Supportive government agencies at one or more levels that are proactive and engage with other stakeholders



Stakeholders with access to natural

collectively manage

them sustainably

resources who

DECENTRALIZATION **PROCESS**

Collaboration at different scales of governance can ensure long term sustainability for conservation **CROSS-SCALE** initiatives **COLLABORATION**



Conservation organizations reacting to the context (threats) more than proactively planning ahead

LACK OF

DIALOGUE

Governments who impede access to decision makers and do not account for scientific or local knowledge in decision making

Lack of effective dialogue among stakeholders with varying levels of power and access to decision making



Inconsistency in public policies whenever governments and leadership change



INCONSISTENCY IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS' ACTIONS



LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

Lack of transparency of information at different stages of planning process of infrastructure projects

NON-ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY POLITICIANS

Elections that bring in representatives who are not sympathetic to environmental issues and especially who cut funding for law enforcement

CONTEXT

REACTION

CHANGES IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP The conditions for environmental governance change for better or worse over time according to changes in government leadership

Interest in different natural resources evolves over time, impeding effective environmental governance NATURAL RESOURCE INTEREST

Central role of the national governments in consistently supporting infrastructure development







Bottom-up approaches are possible when:

Strengthening capacities for local participation in governance can change the imbalance in power and influence

Shared interests are identified among diverse stakeholders



Local and regional governments are well-disposed to collaborate with other stakeholders

Interest in data and policy proposals are backed by important constituencies



Political will exerts significant influence on governance outcomes in terms of:

The placement of personnel

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Prioritizing projects

Allocation of funds

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In Colombia, will recent state policy proposals for green infrastructure permit conservation and development in the context of other proposals? Will the policy mix in the country permit bottom-up governance of infrastructure? How can grassroots initiatives and networks sustain their activities after elections that may result in shifts in their organizations' membership?

Impacts from poor infrastructure governance were clearly mentioned in Bolivia, but barely mentioned in Brazil (where the infrastructure actually was). Why might this be?



How can local actors have agency when the main drivers of change come from larger scales? How to improve transparency in planning and development initiatives, such as those related with tenure and energy? How can allies of communities impacted by projects support them in navigating political changes?



EMERGENT QUESTIONS





PARTNERS











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