

Local practices as adaptation strategies to climate change

Case study: Chiquitano Dry Forest - Bolivia



Research Proposal
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Introduction



- Change of land use is currently the primary source of greenhouse gases in Bolivia.
- The lowlands have experienced heavy deforestation since 60's - economic growth was focused on the development of mechanized agriculture - to alleviate poverty and population pressure in the highlands.

Introduction



- Local knowledge is a valuable source of experiences and answers facing environmental pressures.
- In the current context of climate change, such knowledge and skills are a central tool to face the pressures and impacts of this change.

Research Area: Chiquitano Dry Forest

More than half (54.2%) of the remaining dry forests are located within South America



- Chiquitano Dry Forest is an ecoregion located between the humid climate of the Amazon and the Chaco arid climate of Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil.
- The Bolivian part represents 66% of this ecoregion.
- Chiquitano Dry Forest is a key regulator of the soil water balance in a region where there is a shortage almost half the year.
- The ecoregion is mainly inhabited by two indigenous groups: Chiquitanos and Ayoreos.

Objectives

1. To understand and describe the livelihood assets/strategies of households in a forest depending community in the Chiquitania region.
2. To investigate the local experience with climate change impacts which may affect their livelihood conditions:
 - ▣ Changes in precipitation patterns, related to water stress and changes in rain seasonality.
 - ▣ Occurrence/frequency of extreme events, related to droughts, extreme temperatures.
 - ▣ Other possible indicators: pests or changes in local vegetation .

Tentative objectives



3. To identify and describe possible strategies that households are carrying out to adapt to these effects of climate change.

Purpose of the research

- To understand the livelihood assets/strategies of local people in a Chiquitano Dry Forest-dependent community.
- To understand different adaptation strategies that local people is carrying out to tackle climate change in CDF.

Methods

OBJECTIVE N° 1

To understand and describe the livelihood assets/strategies of households in a forest depending community in the Chiquitania region:



Livelihood assets/strategies:
Site and demographic characteristics, local natural resources , use of forest products, main economic activities.

Data



- Literature review
- Semi-structured interviews to households/ household surveys
- Field observations and analysis

Methods

Methods

OBJECTIVE N° 2

To investigate the local experience with climate change impacts which may affect their livelihood conditions:

- Changes in precipitation patterns, related to water stress and changes in rain seasonality.

- Occurrence/frequency of extreme events, related to droughts, extreme

- Other possible indicators: pests or changes in local vegetation .

- Literature review
- Semi-structured interviews to households/ household surveys
- Review of historical climate records
- Expert interviews

- Review of the river flow historical data

- Info from local experiences/ household surveys
- Expert interviews

Methods

OBJECTIVE N° 3

To identify and describe possible strategies that households are carrying out to adapt to these effects of climate change:



Semi-structured interviews to households/ household surveys



Muchas gracias!



Chiquitan 