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Paper: The hybrid socio-ecological governance of REDD+ in the Peruvian amazon: the case-study of the San Martin region.

Abstract

Among scholars and practitioners, there has been much debate about the use and outcomes of result based payments tools as an incentive for forest conservation. The Reducing, Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) is one of the mechanisms generating today various debates. Whereas certain studies perceive REDD+ as an opportunity to comply with the goals of sustainable development, conservation and climate change mitigation, others claim that REDD+ reinforces the rationality of nature commodification. This paper looks at the socio-political processes underlying the construction of REDD+ in Peru, and notably to its embryonic implementation at the subnational level through the case-study of the San Martin region in the northern area of the Peruvian amazon. The institutional design and setup of Peru's national REDD+ scheme started roughly in 2008. Ten years later, we see how the progressive development of the REDD+ architecture in San Martin is leading to the creation of complex socio-institutional hybridities reflecting the growing entanglements between the governance of forests and land. This hybrid socio-ecological governance produces both challenges and opportunities in terms of horizontal and vertical interplays. In order to better understand the contemporary situation and governance challenges of San Martin regarding the implementation of REDD+, this paper will offer a historical analysis of forest and land governance in the San Martin region, with a focus on the transformations and dynamics of the actors and institutions operating a different spatial scales.

Key words: REDD+, governance, institutional arrangements, Amazon, Peru