

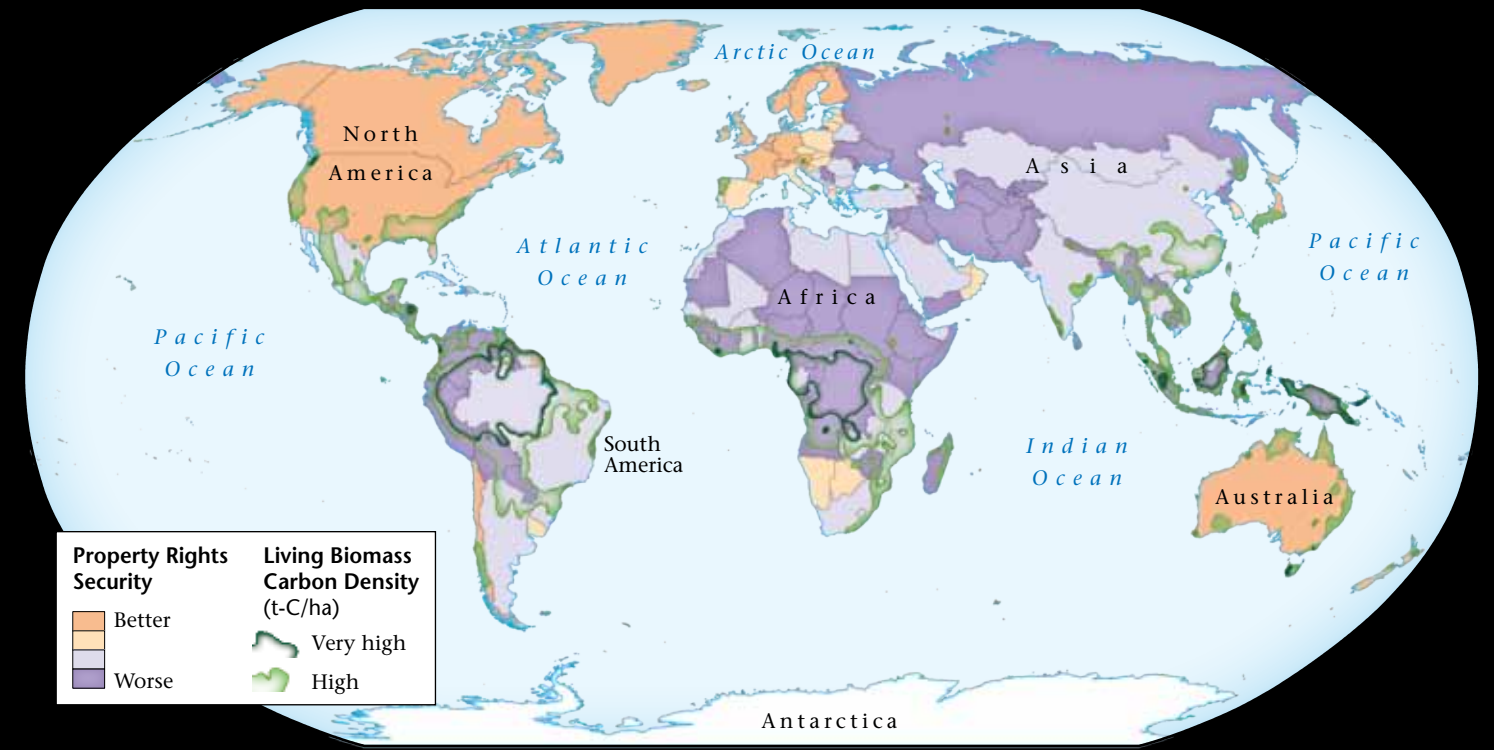
LESSONS ABOUT LAND TENURE, FOREST GOVERNANCE AND REDD+

Case Studies from Africa, Asia and Latin America

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Introduction

Substantial international investment in REDD holds promise for forest protection, but the world's most carbon-heavy forests tend to be located in places where ownership is ill-defined or contested. If REDD investments are to be effective and fair to local forest-dependent communities, tenure issues must be addressed. Here we showcase early efforts to evaluate and clarify tenure and strengthen local forest governance.



Communal Land Offers Both Promise and Risk for REDD



Case studies from Cambodia suggest that traditional communities deserve special attention since they successfully conserve forest but now face threats from large-scale agriculture

REDD investments in traditional communal land systems in NE India show promise for forest conservation and poverty reduction. By contrast, a study from Nepal suggests that REDD could undermine communal forest management.

Laos has extensive forests but REDD projects present risk for some communities given the history of top-down management.



Indigenous communities can use REDD to defend claims

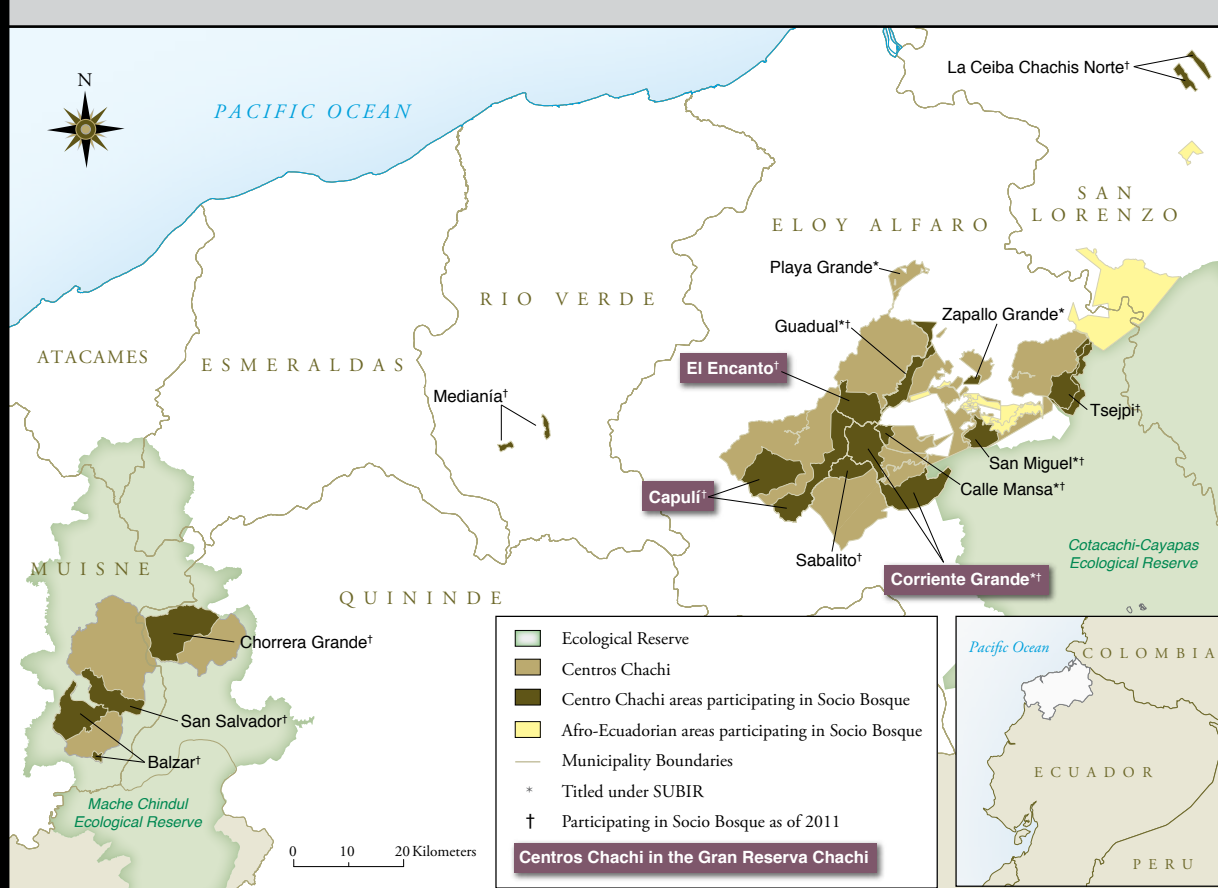


Clarifying land tenure is a complex and politically sensitive endeavor that often requires action at local and national levels.

Land tenure security can be improved via training and paying local citizens as paralegals, e.g. Gran Reserva Chachi.

Some communities may opt to participate in REDD+ as a strategy to improve their tenure security.

The weak presence of state agencies in remote forest regions leaves communities exposed to land invasions and property



Contradictions in National Law Create Risk



Examples from Mozambique and Tanzania show multiple national laws covering identical aspects of land rights

One version favors more local control while another grants rights at regional and national levels

Local control more likely to result in equitable and effective sharing of carbon benefits because local users will gain rewards for protecting forests

Potential for significantly divergent effects in local benefit sharing from REDD+ depending on law followed

