

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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Case Study Name:	Participatory Action Research Applied to the Management of Natural Areas: The Case Study of Cinquera in El Salvador		
Author:	Valencia, D.H, Riera, E.M. and i Juncà, M.B.		
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Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean		
Country:	El Salvador		
Ecosystem Type:	Tropical rain forest		
Social Characteristics:	Community inside protected area		
Scale of Study:	Municipalities		
Resource Type:	Protected area		
Type of Initiative:	Research-driven project		
Community Based Work:	resource management, conservation		

Keywords:	participatory action research, co-production of knowledge, participatory management of natural areas, sustainable use of forests
Summary:	How can a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach promote the co-production of knowledge for the management of natural areas? This article describes the experience of over ten years of implementation of the PAR approach in the management of the Cinquera Natural Area in El Salvador, which is maintained by local communities with an organizational history and attachment to their territory that goes back to the armed conflict in El Salvador in the 1980s. The article exposes the cycle of reflection-research-action-reflection that has been developed in Cinquera, resulting in the co-production of knowledge and its use in specific actions for the protection of the natural area and local sustainable development. We discuss the progress achieved by the community and the lessons learned by applying the PAR research approach.