Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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Case Study Name:	Framing community forestry challenges with a broader lens: Case studies from the Brazilian Amazon
Author:	Hajjar, R., McGrath, D.G., Kozak, R.A. and Innes, L.
Document Type:	Paper in Scientific Journal
Year:	2011
Language:	English
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Region:	Latin America
Country:	Brazil
Ecosystem Type:	Tropical rain forest
Social Characteristics:	Community-owned and managed/government-owned but house hold managed forest
Scale of Study:	Household, community
Resource Type:	Forest (timber and non-timber forest products)
Type of Initiative:	Community-based
Community-Based Work:	Resource management
Keywords:	Latin America, Brazil, Community forest management, Challenges
Summary:	Community forestry initiatives have been shown to reduce rural poverty while promoting the conservation and sustainable use of forests. However, a number of challenges face communities

wanting to initiate or maintain formal, community-based forest management. Through a grounded theory approach, this paper uses three case studies of community forest management models in the eastern Amazon to create a framework showing challenges faced by communities at different phases of formal management. The framework shows that, in the development phase, four root problems (land ownership, knowledge acquisition, community organization, and adequate capital) need to be addressed to obtain legal management permission. With this permission in hand, further challenges to operationalization are presented (deterring illegal loggers, maintaining infrastructure, obtaining necessary managerial skills and accessing markets). The interrelatedness of these challenges emphasizes that all challenges need to be addressed in a holistic manner for communities to maintain a profitable and self-sufficient operation. This contradicts current development approaches that only address part of this framework. The framework proposed here can be used as a starting point for community forestry initiatives in other regions.