

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

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Case Study Name:	Community managed forests and forest protected areas: An assessment of their conservation effectiveness across the tropics.		
Author:	Porter-Bolland, L., Ellis, E. A., Guariguata, M.R., Ruiz-Mallén, I., Negrete-Yankelevich, S. and Reyes-García, V.		
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Region:	Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa		
Country:	Mexico, Peru, India, Guatemala, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Indonesia, Jamaica, India, Honduras, Malaysia, Costa Rica, Belize,		
Ecosystem Type:	Tropical forest		
Social Characteristics:	Protected forests areas, community managed forests		
Scale of Study:	Community, national		
Resource Type:	Forest		
Type of Initiative:	Community-based		

Community-Based Work:	Resource management, conservation
Keywords:	Land use/cover change, Tropical deforestation, Meta-analysis, Qualitative Comparative Analysis, Community managed forests , Protected areas
Summary:	<p>This paper assesses the role of protected and community managed forests for the long term maintenance of forest cover in the tropics. Through a meta-analysis of published case-studies, we compare land use/ cover change data for these two broad types of forest management and assess their performance in maintaining forest cover. Case studies included 40 protected areas and 33 community managed forests from the peer reviewed literature. A statistical comparison of annual deforestation rates and a Qualitative Comparative Analysis were conducted. We found that as a whole, community managed forests presented lower and less variable annual deforestation rates than protected forests. We consider that a more resilient and robust forest conservation strategy should encompass a regional vision with different land use types in which social and economic needs of local inhabitants, as well as tenure rights and local capacities, are recognized. Further research for understanding institutional arrangements that derive from local governance in favor of tropical forest conservation is recommended.</p>