

LAND GRABBING AND POPULAR RESISTANCE: CASE STUDIES IN THE PERUVIAN JUNGLE

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Outline



Problem statement

Research question and argument

Description of research site

Case study analysis

Channels of land grabbing

Level of development

Patterns of interactions

Outcomes and conclusions

Problem statement

- Theoretically:

Land grabbing is not a question of:

- Private versus public property
- Title versus untitled land

Question of credibility of property rights →
Assess institutions according to their local context

- Empirically:

- How does land grabbing work out in practice?



Research site

- Disputed frontier between San Martín and Loreto
- Isolation from administrative presence of the state
- Narco-traffic and MRTA headquarter in the 80s.
- Society based on subsistence agricultural production
- Agricultural migration pushing the agricultural frontier



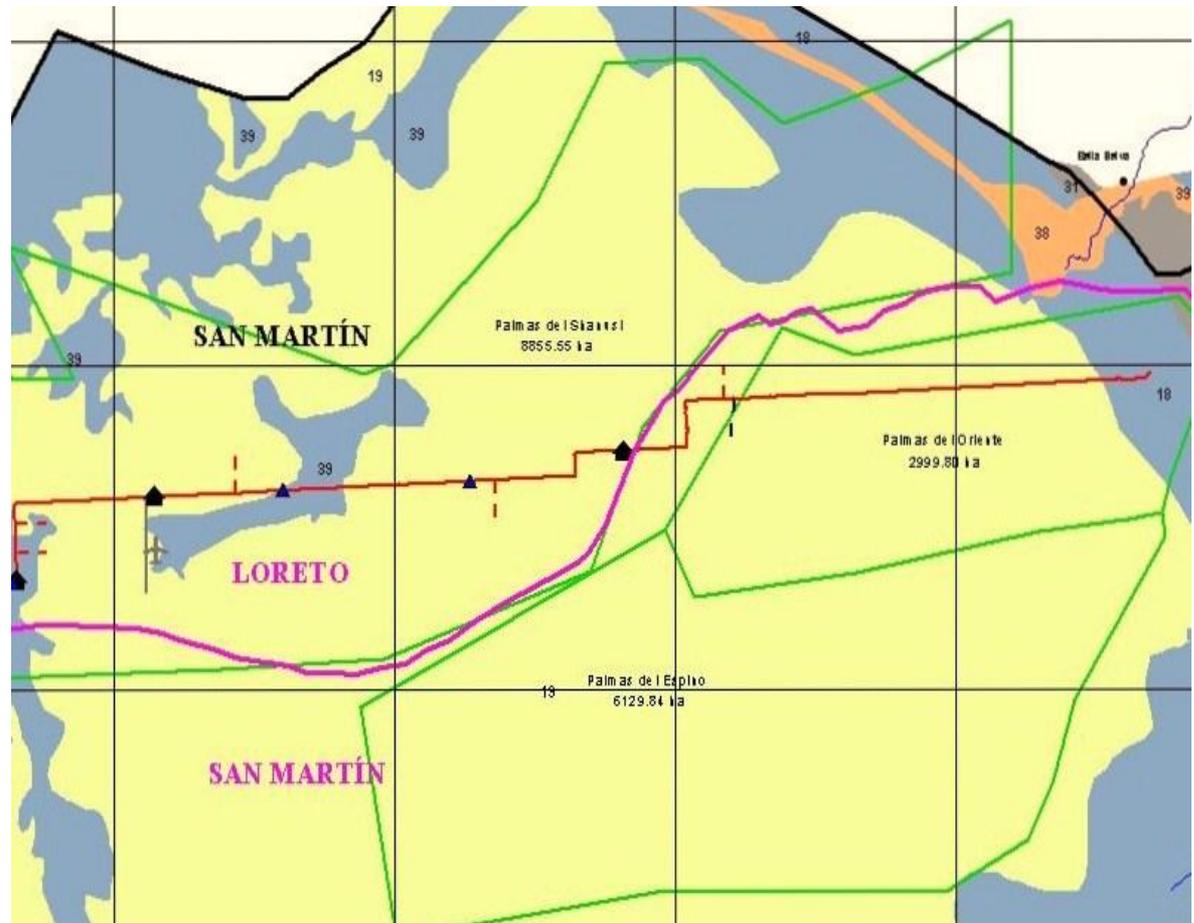
Research site

Shanusi Valley (Loreto):

Factory del Shanusi: 7,000 has. deforested + palm
An estimated 3,500 has of land bought to individual peasants

Caynarachi Valley (San Martin):

Factory Yacu: 3,000 has. of virgin forest deforested
Factory del Caynarachi: 6,129 has. of land requested by the firm but not adjudicated due to resistance



Case study analysis (1): channels of land grabbing

Ability of central state:

- To adjudicate land, deforestation rights at symbolic prices
 - To bend the rules in the interests of the firm: Subsidiary firm + land qualification + titling process
- To play with credibility of lower institutional level according to social acceptance



Case study analysis (2):Indicators	Caynarachi valley	Shanusi valley
Population (INEI 2007)	5,285 - 23 communities 8,360 (local census)	District: 63,345 - 110 communities 25 communities: 6,566
Poverty rate (INEI 2007)	85.2 %	59.6 %
Poverty rate (local census)	Poor: 64 % (30 ha land) Very poor 12 % (rent)	
Child mortality at provincial level (INEI 2009)	21.2 per mil	26.8 per mil
Secondary school attendance (id.)	51.33%	52.31%
Human Development Index at provincial level (UNDP 2009)	0.5606	0.5639
State Density Index at provincial level (PNUD 2009)	0.4743 0.16 in 1993	0.4833 0.16 in 1993
Distance to authorities	To district: 30 km. To capital: 100 km.	To district: 50 km. To capital: 420 km.

- Similar level of development, similar absence of the state
- Difference in geographical factor to access authorities

Case study analysis (3): patterns of interaction

Indicators	Caynarachi valley	Shanusi valley
Local- social acceptance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Peasants opposed, awareness of dependence on land + irregularities- Struggle committee + social protests- Leadership of key civil society and church actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Peasants' opposition rapidly silenced- Massive sale of lands- Population displacement- Key civil society organizations divided or controlled, popular leaders intimidated- Conditional support of communities against basic services.
Local institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Land relations: membership, de facto individual possession, forest commonly owned and open access to water- Informal property rights institutions + governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Land relations based on community membership, de facto individual possession, open access to water and forest.

Case study analysis (3): patterns of interaction

Indicators	Caynarachi valley	Shanusi valley
Local political acceptance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opposition of local authorities - Coalition: local authorities +key actors+ struggle committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation of local authorities in land grabbing - Isolated way + vested interests
Regional support and interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal claims against the firm - Ecological Economical Zonification - Recognition of local informal property rights institutions. - Conflict with the firm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal regional institutions supporting land grabbing - Collusion: firm and regional institutions - Absence of recognition of local informal property rights and selective enforcement - Distance and isolation - Competition for public jobs reinforced by corruption - Dismantle civil society organizations and fragmentation

Conclusion

Land grabbing: name of general public interest → adapt institutions to make it legal but not socially accepted

Caynarachi valley:

- Clash with credible local formal and informal institutions
- Key factors of popular resistance: close relationship, governance of natural resources, awareness, leadership
- Regional government support

Shanusi valley:

- No credible institution at the local level
- Legality used to legitimate abuses by empty institutions
- Isolation from authorities, population displacements, new land based divisions



Thank you

