



Community Conservation  
Research Network

# What do the Maya people do on community-based conservation in their *ejidos*?

Minerva Arce-Ibarra, Malloni Puc-Alcocer,

Ma. Eugenia García-Contreras, & Erin Estrada-Lugo

*Communities, Conservation and Livelihoods Conference.*

Halifax, Canada. May 28th, 2018

# Outline

1. Brief History of the Maya in Quintana Roo and the time when *ejidos* were granted.
2. Drivers that have impacted upon Maya ejidos
3. Social organization and community-based conservation
4. Concluding remarks



Infante-Ramírez (2014)

# History- The Maya from Quintana Roo

1500

1600

1700

1800

1900

Maya people inhabiting the Yucatan Peninsula

Spanish Conquest (Yucatan)

Dyeing stick exploitation

Precious wood Exploitation (UK-Belize)

Mayas *macehuales* in Quintana Roo

Cast War 1847

Maya Church

1930s

1974

1992

2000-2018

Chicle Trade Agrarian Reform

Immigration Programs

Economic development programs: cattle industry & mechanical farming

Sustainable development discourse; Env.Serv.Payments; Mesoamerican Biological Corridor

Ejidos were granted

Precious wood Exploitation (MEX)

National Program on Deforestation

Agrarian Reform

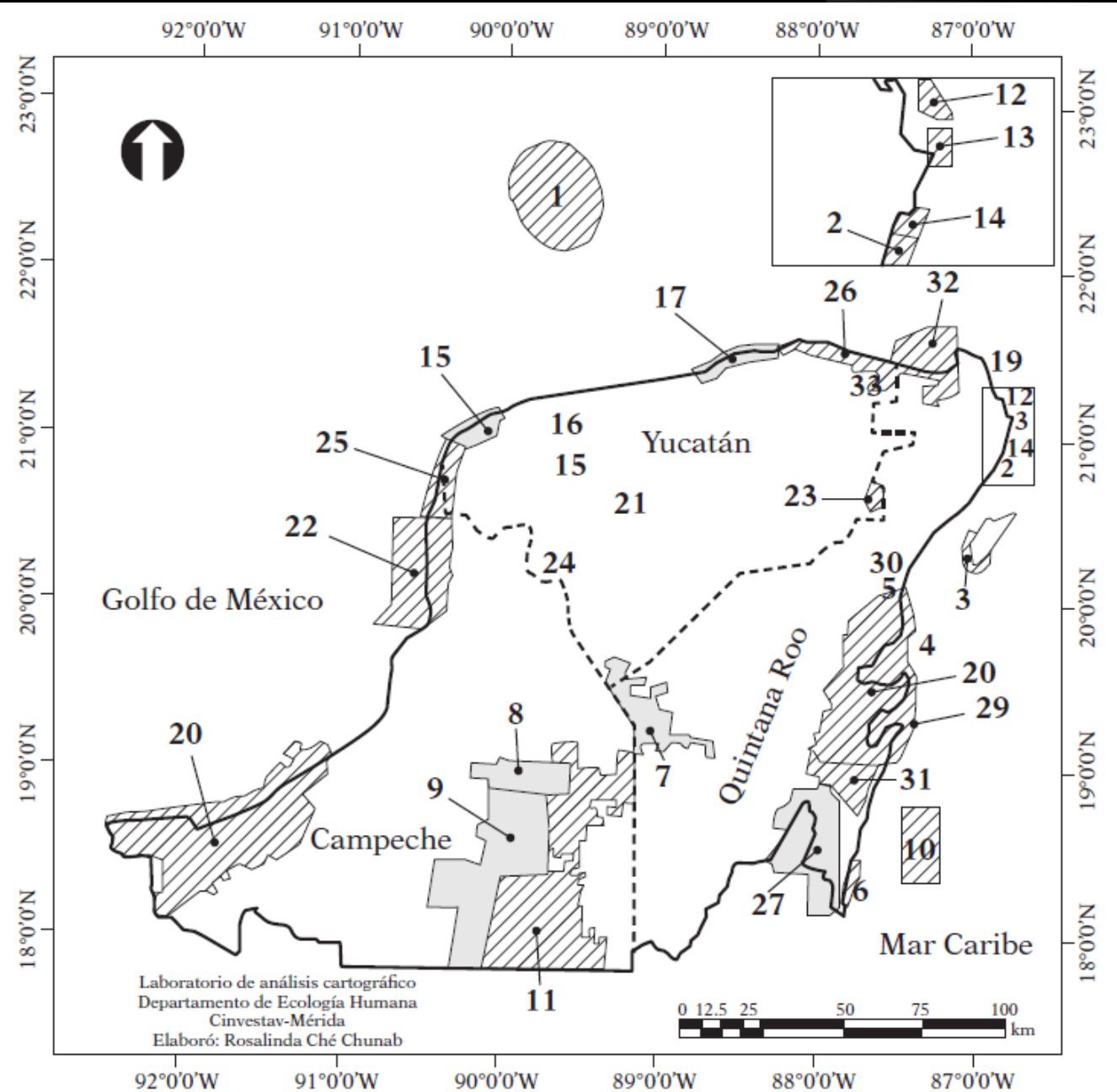
Law of LGEEPA

Sian K'áan

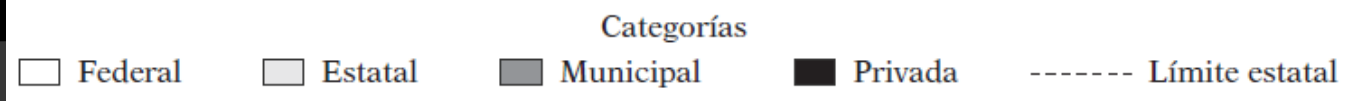
Pilot Forestry Plan

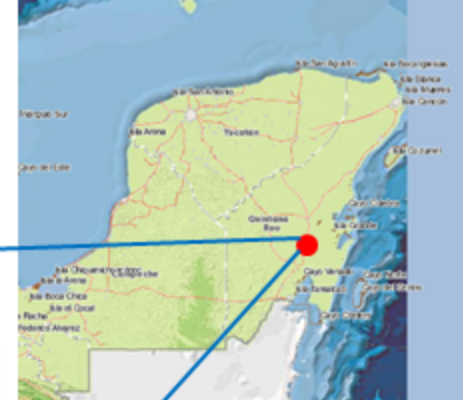
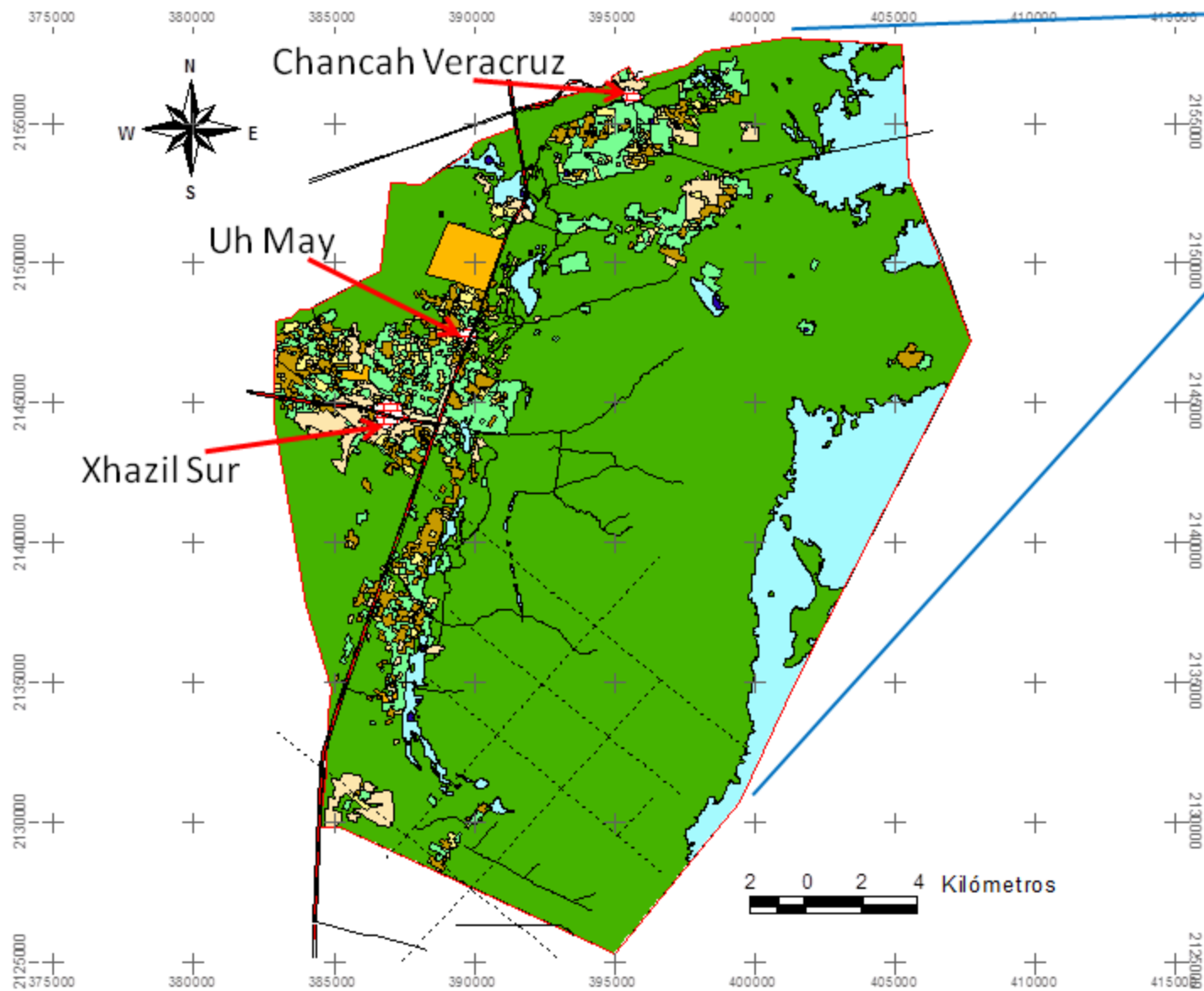
Quintana Roo as Federal Territory

Quintana Roo as State



Fraga (2015)





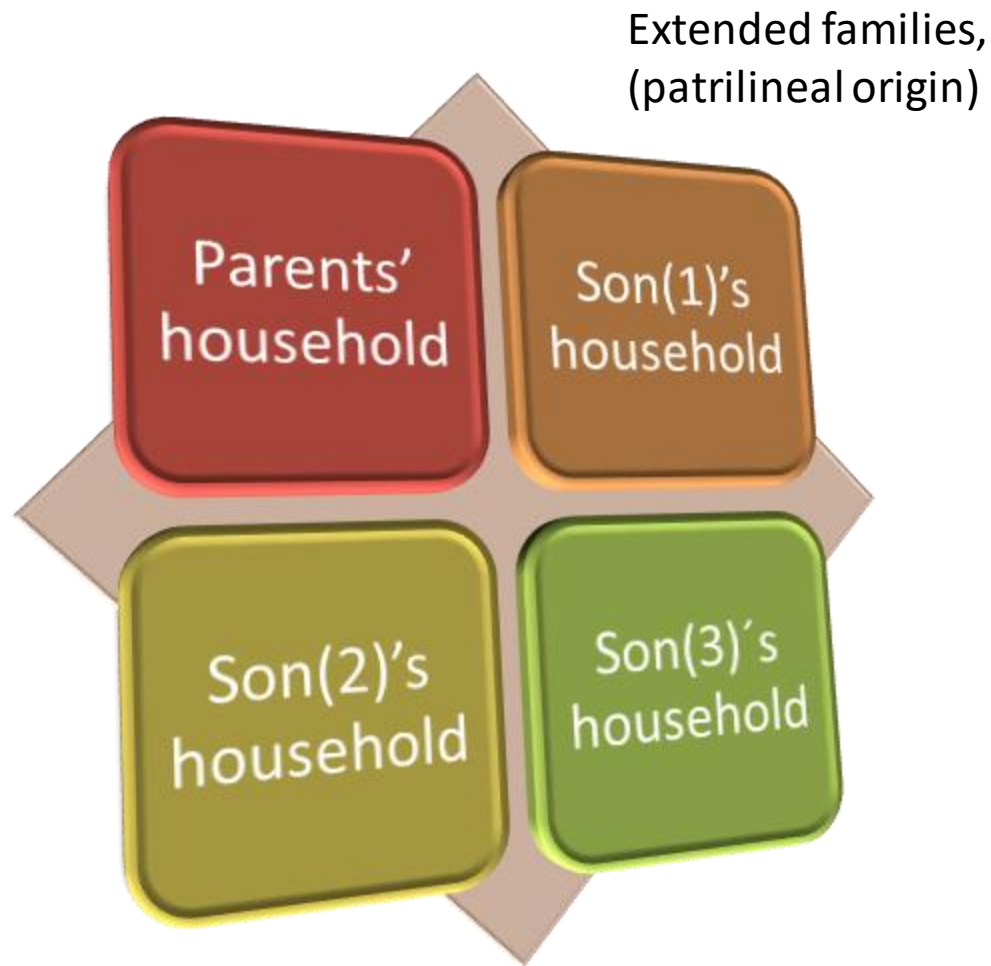
- Vías de comunicación**
- Carretera
  - Terracería
  - Brecha PEMEX
  - Brecha

Polígono ejidal

- Uso de suelo y vegetación**
- Milpa en uso 1998
  - Vegetación secundaria (de 3-10 años)
  - Vegetación secundaria (de 11-15 años)
  - Vegetación secundaria (de 16-20 años)
  - Citricos
  - Pastizal (roza-tumba-quema)
  - Selva mediana subperennifolia
  - Sabana
  - Cuerpo de agua
  - Zona urbana

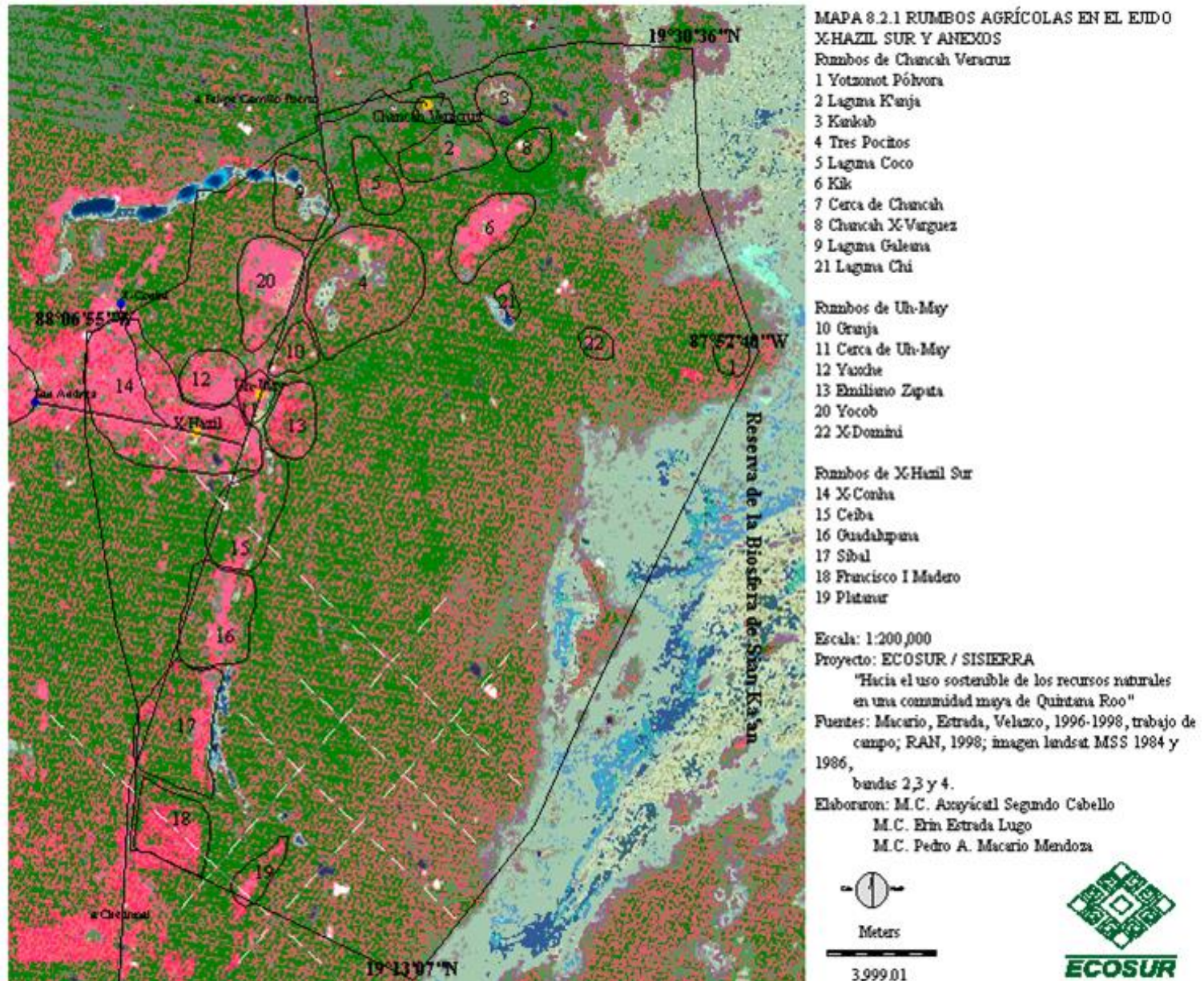
Fuentes:  
 Fotografías aéreas monocromáticas (escala 1:75,000), producidas por INEGI-SINFA, 1998-2000.  
 Plano de tierras de uso común (escala 1:50,000), RAN-INEGI, 1998.

# Social Organization: The Maya Kinship System



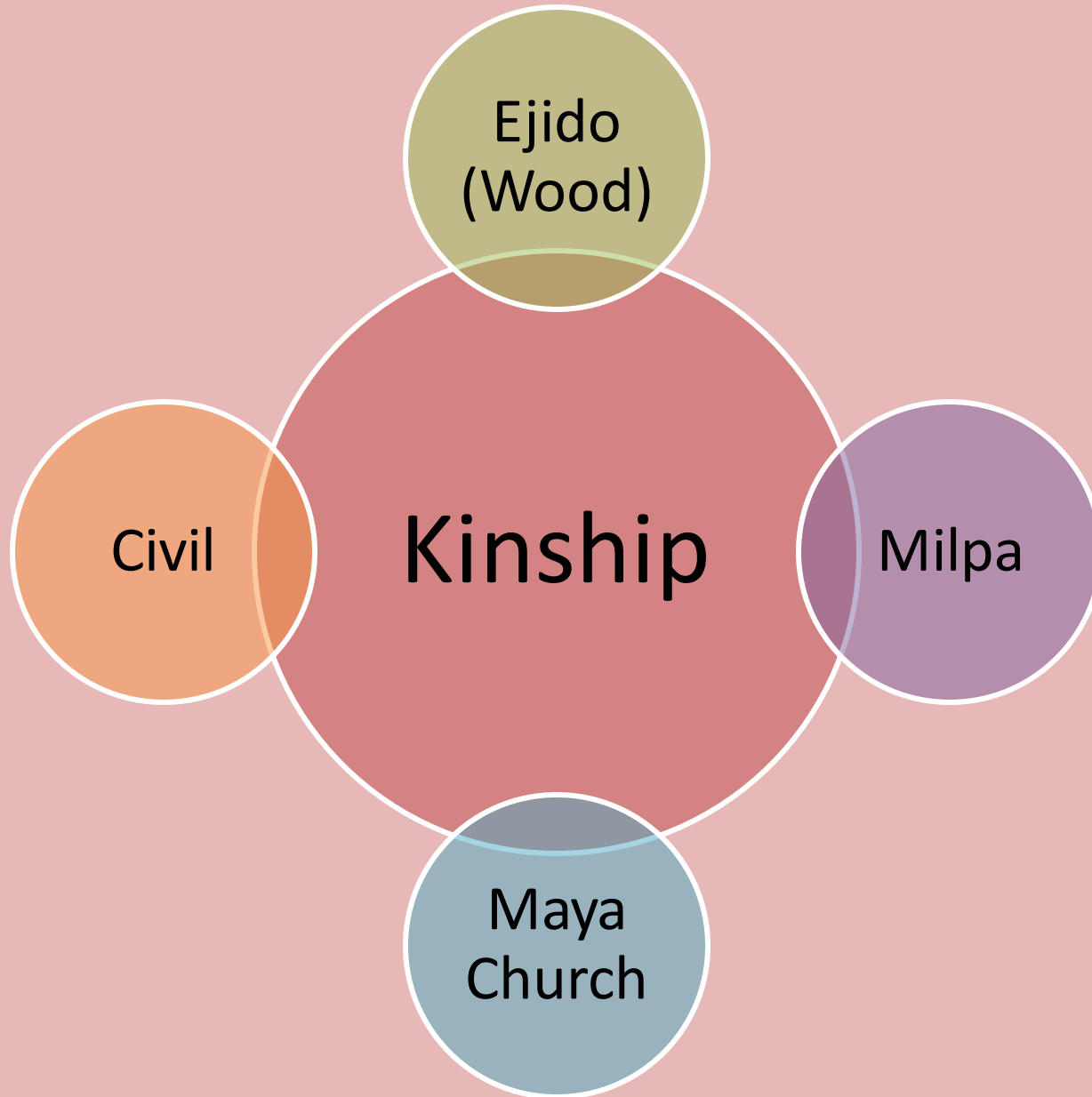
**Erin Estrada-Lugo (2005)**

# Applicable norms; they are in force => Customary law





# Social organization and community-based conservation



# Social organization and community-based conservation

Extended families  
living nearby (with  
patrilineal origin)

**Kinship system**  
(religious affiliation-  
the Maya church)

**Livelihoods**

**Traditional –Milpa**  
(production &  
consumption groups)

**Market-oriented,**  
(working groups)

**Community-based  
conservation  
initiatives**

Small game  
Freshwater fishing

Gathering  
Beekeeping

Logging  
**(accountability  
problems)**

# What happens with milpa vs rainforest conservation?

Rainforest of several  
*ejidos* &  
communities

Land use  
dynamics and  
forest cover

Bray et al. (2004,  
2008); Puc-  
Alcocer (2015)

**Deforestation rates are relatively small, comparable to those found in some Natural Protected Areas (e.g., Calakmul)**

# Concluding remarks

Maya macehual ejidos have a territorial configuration which results from the patrilineal kinship system related to social and religious institutions and the Maya customary law

The social organization of the Maya ejido “Xhazil Sur y Anexos” corresponds to productive systems which are worked through community groups

Our study regards current social institutions of ejidos and Maya customary law as appropriate mechanisms to back up successful community-based conservation initiatives



**Thank you!**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Maya authorities & friends
- CCRN -SSHRC (Canada)
- CONACyT & ECOSUR  
(Mexico)

# REFERENCES

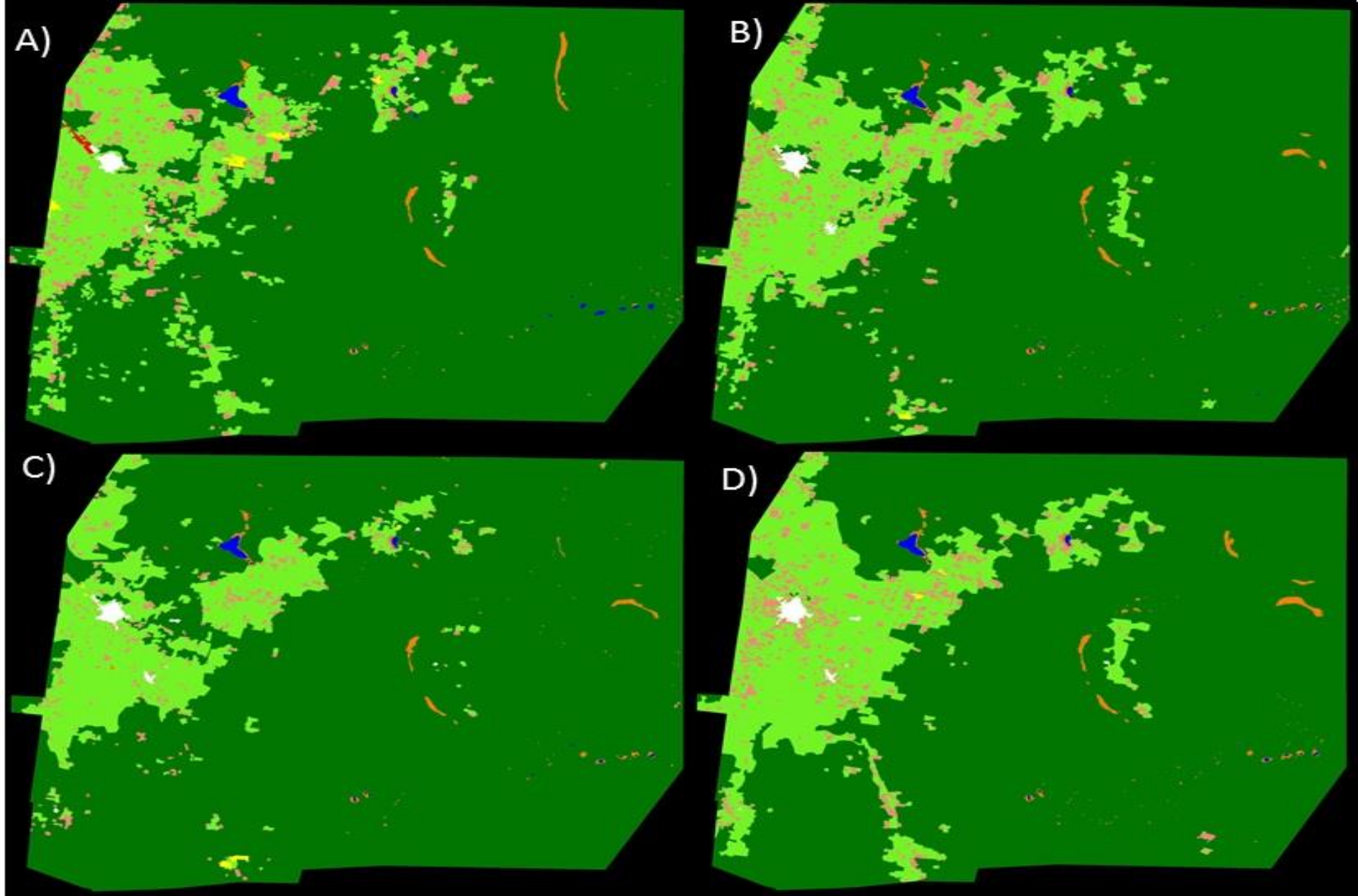
Bray, D. B., Ellis, E. A., Armijo-Canto, N., & Beck, C. T. (2004). The institutional drivers of sustainable landscapes: a case study of the 'Mayan Zone' in Quintana Roo, Mexico. *Land Use Policy*, 21(4), 333-346.

Bray, D. B., E. Duran, V. H. Ramos, J.-F. Mas, A. Velazquez, R. B. McNab, D. Barry, and J. Radachowsky. 2008. Tropical deforestation, community forests, and protected areas in the Maya Forest. *Ecology and Society* 13(2): 56. [online] URL: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol13/iss2/art56/>

Estrada Lugo E.I.J. 2005. Grupo doméstico y usos del parentesco entre los Mayas Macehuales del Centro de Quintana Roo: el caso del ejido Xhazily Anexos. Doctoral Dissertation in Social Anthropology. Universidad Iberoamericana, México.

Estrada Lugo, E. I., Bello Baltazar, E., & García Contreras, M. 2006. Derecho consuetudinario en tierras mayas de Quintana Roo, México. In V Congreso de la Red Latinoamericana de Antropología Jurídica. Justicia y diversidad en tiempos de globalización en Homenaje a Jane F. Collierp. 1-24.

- EXTRA MATERIAL



- A) Uso de suelo 2000
- B) Uso de suelo 2004
- C) Uso de suelo 2008
- D) Uso de suelo 2012

## X-Maben

- |   |                     |   |                        |
|---|---------------------|---|------------------------|
|  | Milpa               |  | Cuerpos de agua        |
|  | Acahual             |  | Sabana                 |
|  | Asentamiento humano |  | Agricultura permanente |
|  | Pastizal            |  | Selva                  |