

Shaping futures for the Sierra Occidental de Jalisco (Mexico). Social anthropology of a biodiversity conservation project: the Paisaje Biocultural.

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Summary:

Global changes affect biodiversity as much as human societies living within it. In Mexico, a biological and cultural megadiverse country, a new protected area design is under negotiation. The Paisaje Biocultural, supported by the french-mexican cooperation, aims at protecting biodiversity through sustainable development of rural areas. The region of the Sierra Occidental de Jalisco has been chosen to host the first pilot project. Its implementation questions the means by which the Paisaje Biocultural negotiates its position and achieves its objectives to fit within current dynamics affecting relationships between people and their environment. Through a mixed approach combining ethnoecology and development anthropology, this PhD thesis aims at describing relationships to the environment of the stakeholders coming across the implementation of the Paisaje Biocultural as well as the issues revealed by their encounters. This work describes how regional forest ecosystems are integrated into agrarian landscapes associated to multiples uses and representations, included in broader globalized dynamics – migratory flows to United States and community based-forestry – transforming stakeholders, values and conditions of access to natural resources. The analysis of the construction and implementation of the Paisaje Biocultural shows how these transformations are negotiated and included into natural resources and space control issues taking place into the institutional and sectorial operation of public intervention in rural areas.

{{Key-words}}: Biodiversity conservation, migration, community-based forestry, rancheras societies, Sierra Occidental de Jalisco, Paisaje Biocultural