

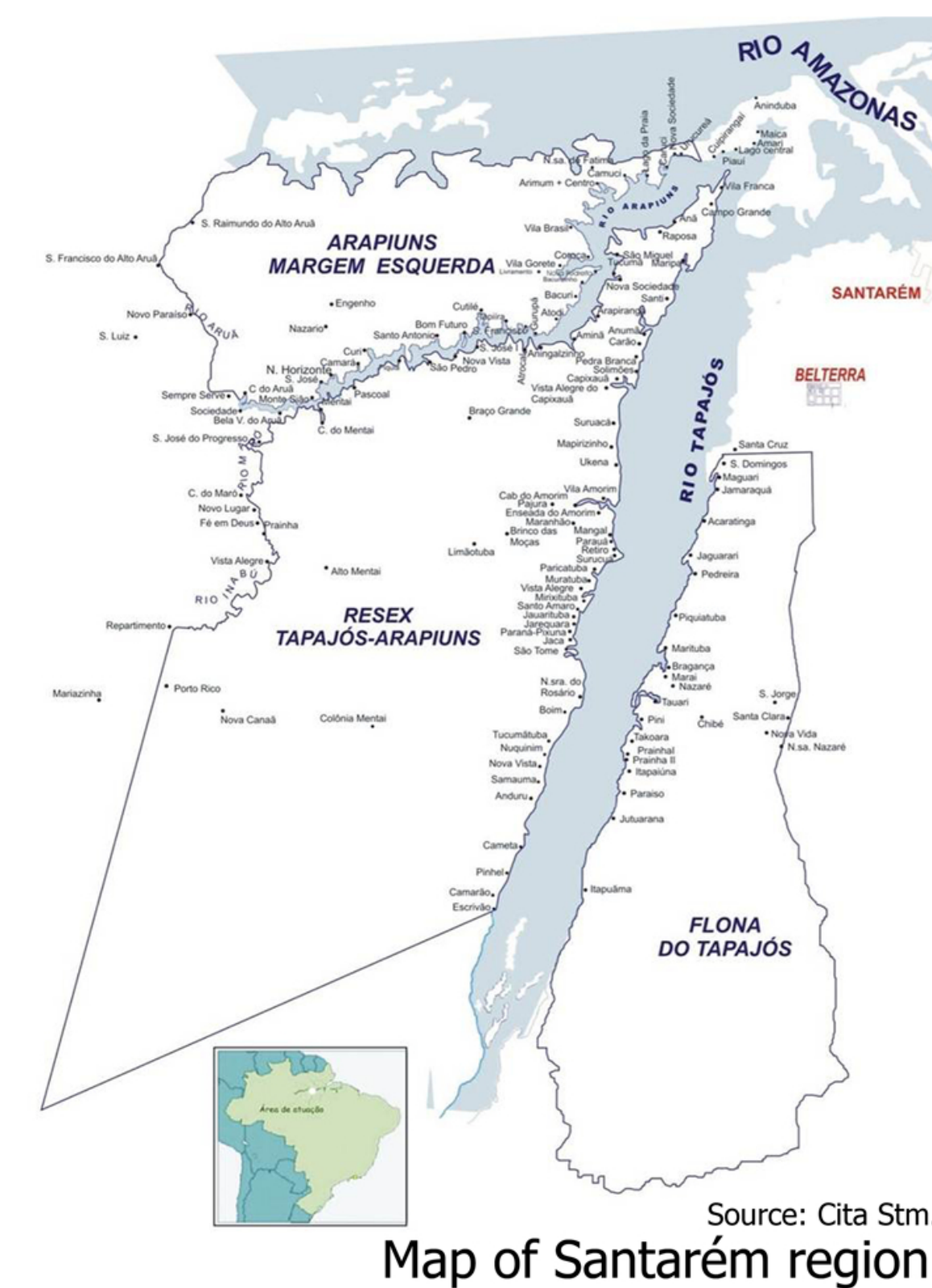
Transformation of Land Rights as Instrument for Conservation? A Case Study from Pará, Brazil

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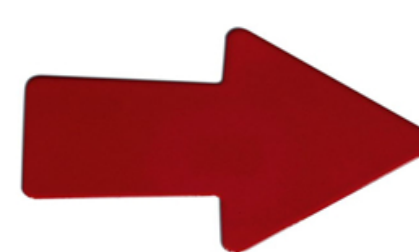
Background

In 1998, the Brazilian State established the Resex Tapajós-Arapiuns with the aim to preserve the rainforest from deforestation by logging companies and secure the local populations way of life (Extrativismo). In 2013, the responsible board of administration (Conselho Deliberativo) approved an agreement for sustainable exploitation in the Resex. This includes transformation of land tenure:



Existing land tenure

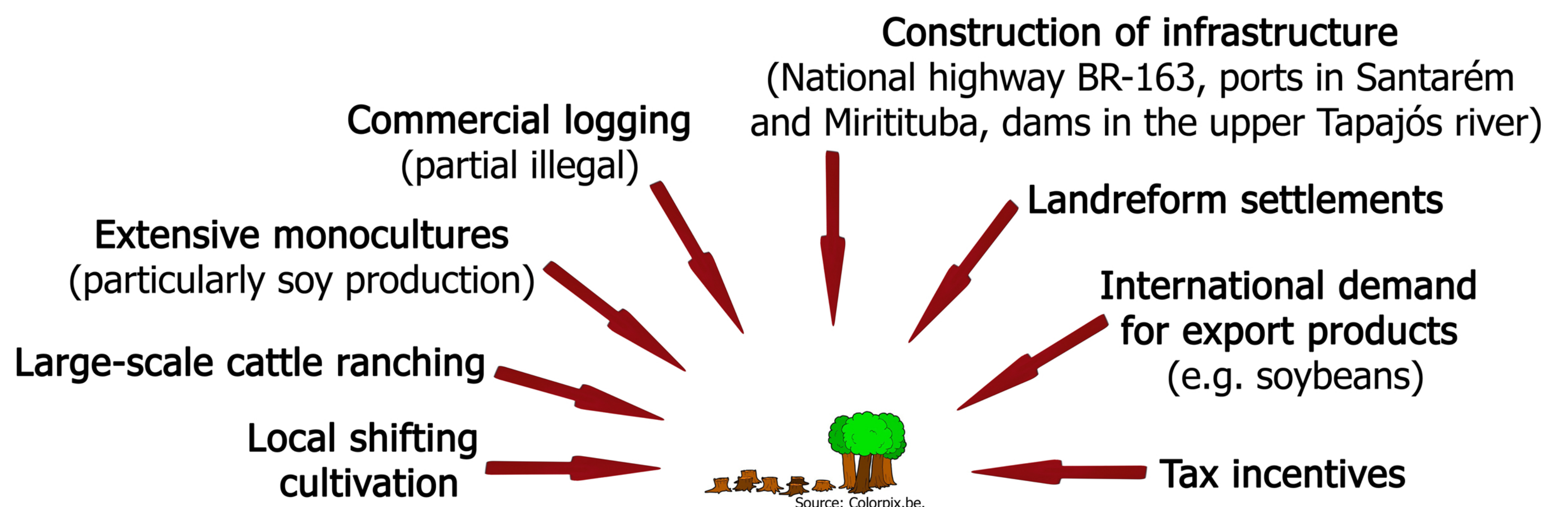
- Land tenurial: state - Rights of use: local polulation
- Shifting cultivation on communities common land
- Community-based management



Planned land tenure

- Land tenurial: state - Rights of use: local polulation
- Farming on fixed individual sites
- Responsible for management: Conselho Deliberativo

Particular Causes of Deforestation in West-Pará



Deforestation occurs either without relation to land ownership or resulting from privatisation of land (e.g. in the case of soy production). However the Conselho Deliberativo decided for privatisation to establish sustainable use of natural resources and against the existing community-based management with collective instead of individual property rights. Why?

Assumptions

Decisions for different conservation strategies aren't merely two approaches to deal with today's environmental problems. Furthermore they reflect underlying contradictory paradigms concerning the perception of world, man, nature, and their relationship. Therefore these ontological conceptions have to be considered in discussions about environmental conservation.

Further Research Questions

- Which ontological conceptions of man and nature define the world view of involved stakeholders?
- Which influence over conservation strategies do they have?
- Which of these paradigms win recognition and why?

Methods

Case study through qualitative interviews with participating stakeholders, group discussions and participant observation.

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