

Adapted Institutional Environment and Sustainable Resource Access for Co-Developing Brazil Nut Value Chains in the Amazon?



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1 Rationale

- 1.5 billion people use and/or trade non-timber forest products (NTFPs) worldwide (Shanley et al. 2016)
- Most NTFPs are gathered by economically and geographically marginalized forest dependent dwellers of areas with low HDI and high biodiversity
- Sustainable NTFP management is crucial for achieving SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17
- Brazil nut is the most important NTFP in the Lower Amazon region

Brazil nut



2 Problem

- Policies for sustainable forest management are almost inexistent
- Given formal & informal institutions limit the access of gatherers to Brazil nut & markets

3 Research Gap & Research Question

Research Gap: Lack of analysis of context & role of institutions for understanding access to natural resources & markets as approach for Value Chain analysis (VCA) & development (VCD)

Research Question: If/ how can institutions (formal and informal) facilitate/ limit the access to natural resources and markets in the Brazil nut VC in the Lower Amazon region?

5 Study Area

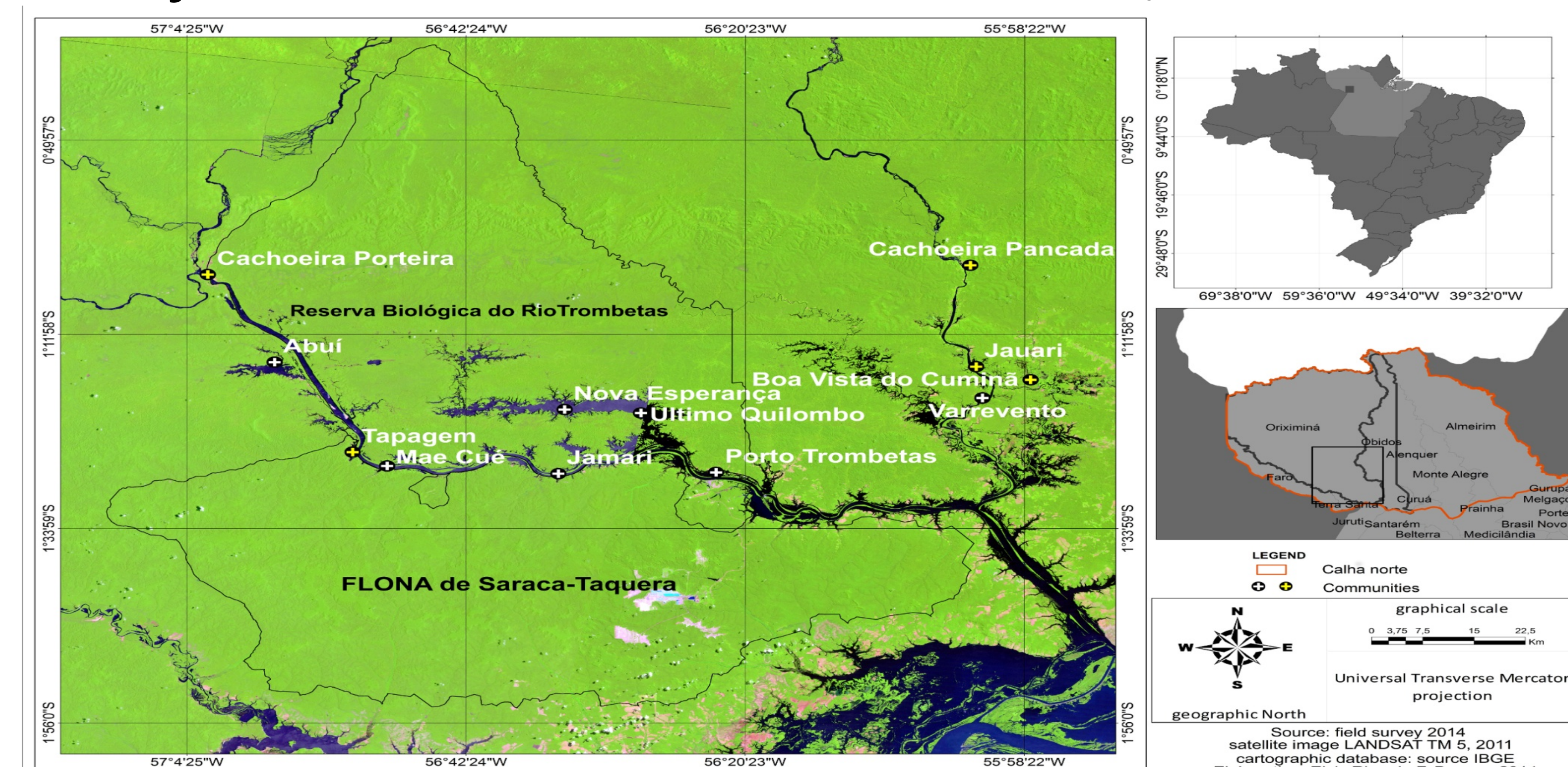


Figure 2: Maps showing part of the Lower Amazon region (Calha Norte) in the Pará state (A); limits of the municipalities of Oriximiná & Óbidos (B); Afro-Brazilian (quilombola) communities along the Erepecuru and Trombetas rivers in Oriximiná (C)

8 Final Remarks

- Institutions (formal and informal) that are mutually beneficial for VC actors can shape an **institutional environment that is conducive for accessing resources and markets**, laying the groundwork for self-sustaining inclusive VCD
- This **enabling institutional environment** can only be achieved with social organization and democratic participation in decision-making processes e.g. for context-sensitive & co-adapted institutions (formal & informal), policies & service provision
- **Certification & Governance platforms** can enhance access to natural resources and markets on a sustainable basis for upstream VC actors, building on **socioeconomic upgrading** & 'inclusive governance' among VC agents in the realm of VCD

6 Methodology

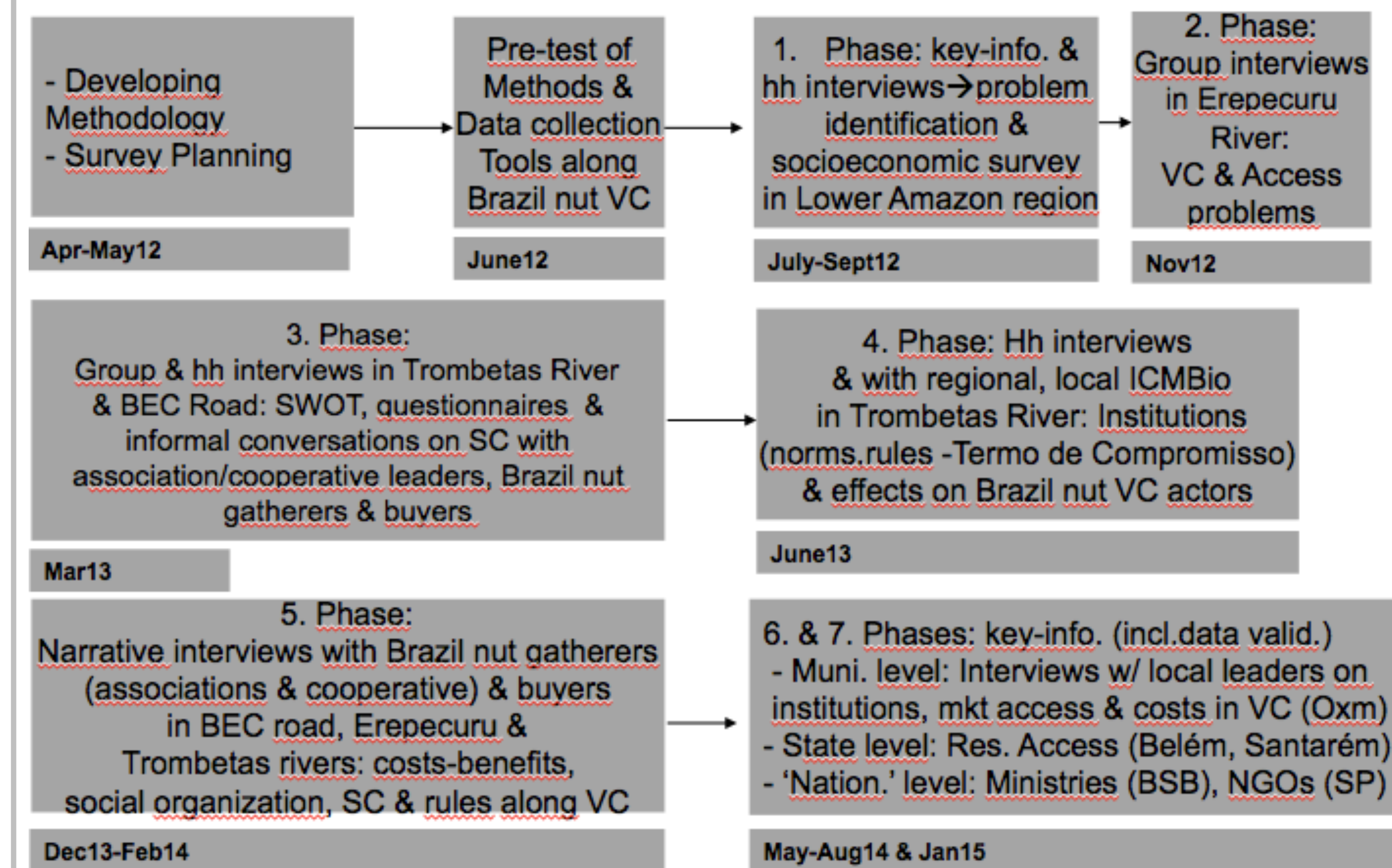


Figure 3: Methodological Approach

7 Results

- **Brazil nut makes up 13% of income** of upstream VC actors
- **Formalization of rule** to limit the number of buyers who can enter Protected Areas (PAs) in Brazil (through *Termo de compromisso*) limits the benefits of most extractivists
- The **access to resources** (financial and information) for 'geographically/ economically' marginalized extractivist groups **is further limited by organizations 'that write formal rules'** and by extractivist leaders
- **Institutionalization of Dependency relations** per **Traditional Barter System** among Brazil nut gatherers & buyers over generations have **turned into access limiting informal institution**
- Collective marketing through **cooperatives contributes to balancing unequal bargaining power and trade relationships** among upstream and downstream VC actors & reducing market asymmetries
- **Governance platforms:** concrete case of *Comissão de governança* embedded in ministerial program (MDIC-SEICOM): institutionalization of VC & access to policies
- **Certification "Origens Brasil"** (certification of origin/ geographical indication & Amazonian *quilombolas* appeal)
- **Greater participation of Brazil nut gatherers in organizations and relevant decision-making** (e.g. on formal institutions) **enhances market access & outlets** and increases the income of extractivists
- **Locally adapted formal institutions** can enhance the access of Brazil nut VC actors to natural resources and markets; how they are to be adapted is to be **democratically decided in a new Deliberative Council** for the Management of the TRBR (PA) instead of a Consultative one