

Towards rights-centered conservation for and by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: The case of Amazônia

1 Introduction in a (Brazil) nutshell

Iterative conceptual-empirical research approach –building on intertwined problems:

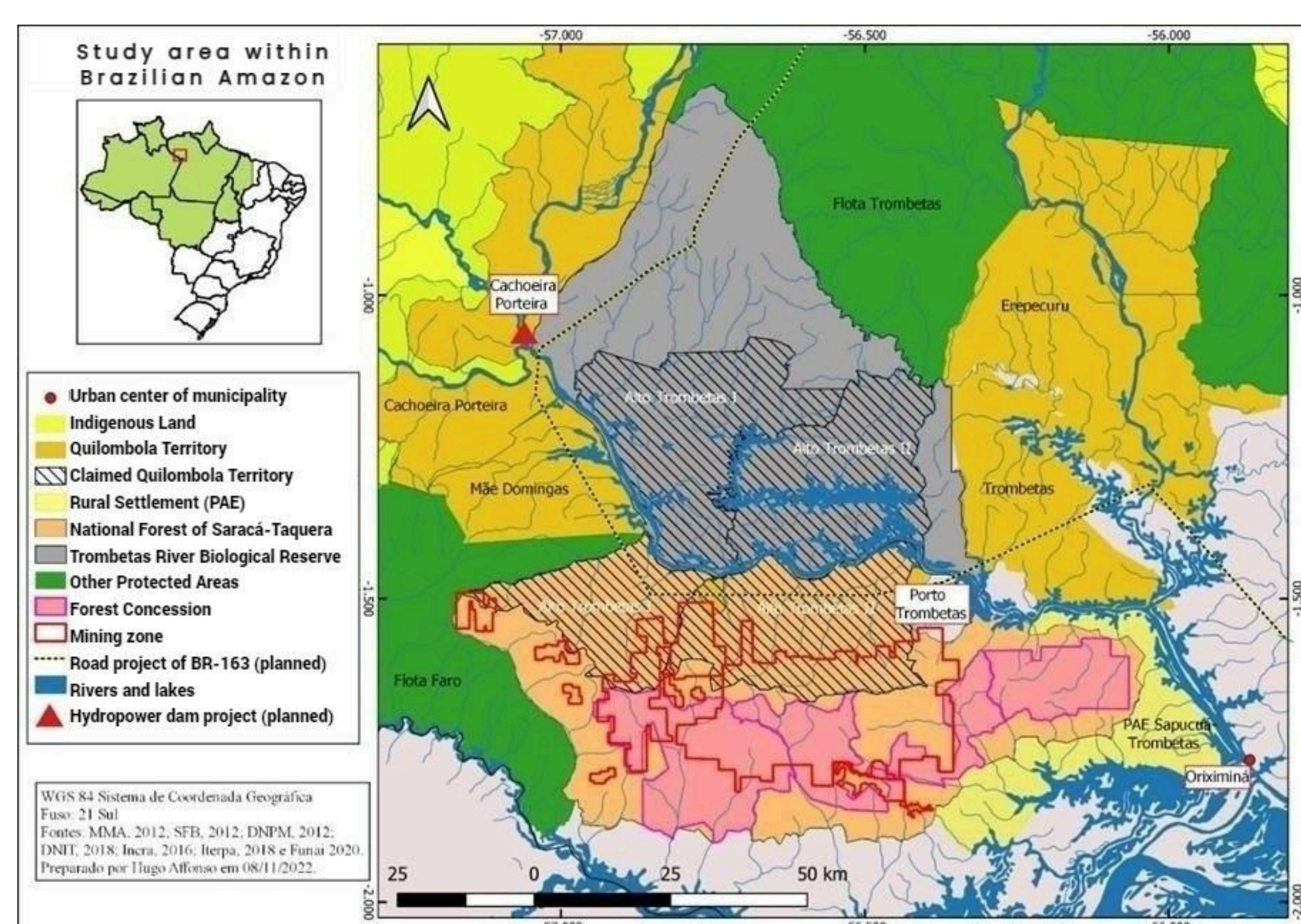
- (i) Resource and market access limitations by traditional Local Communities in protected areas;
- (ii) Unconducive institutional environment for reconciling strict conservation with traditional local livelihoods in the context of low HDI and rich biodiversity in rural Amazônia, Brazil.

2 Research questions

- (i) If/how do institutions (re)shape natural resource and market access by Quilombolas in the protected area (PA) of the Trombetas River Biological Reserve (TRBR)? [Q1]
- (ii) How can access-implications be addressed or redressed? [Q2]

3 Unit of analysis

Figure 1: Map of study area with PA (TRBR) overlapping with claimed Quilombola Territory



Implications of the TRBR **Term of Compromise** (TC) – a formal institution written by Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) – on **livelihood-relevant access** to Non-timber forest products (NTFP/Brazil nut) and markets are analyzed.

4 Methods

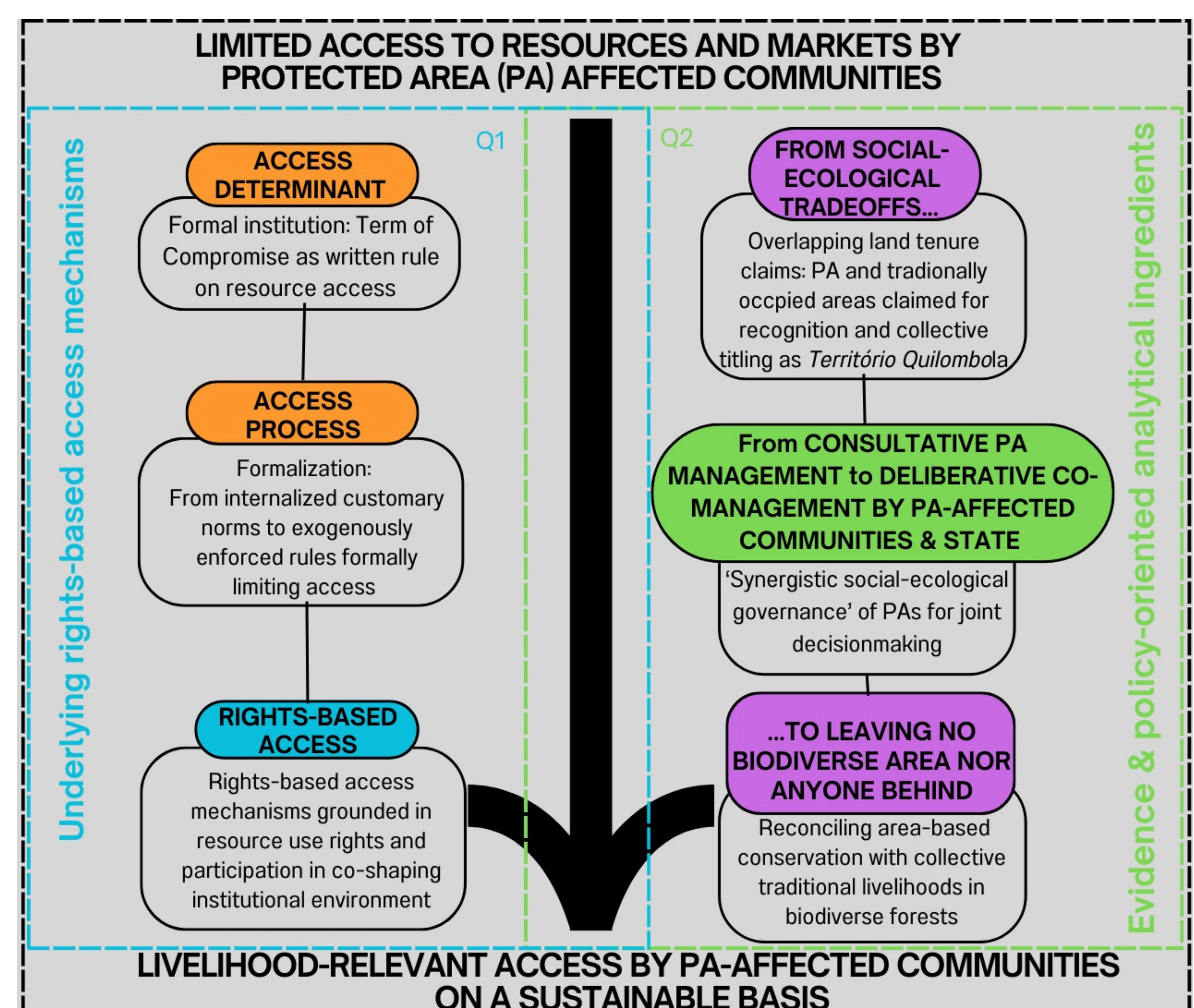
- (i) Semi-structured **interviews** (n=91) focusing on NTFP-gathering and supply, key-informants;
- (ii) Informal conversations, **participant observation** and focus-group interviews (data triangulation).

5 Findings from analysis

- (i) TC (2012) **overwrites institutionalized norms** of Local Communities of *Quilombolas* (afrodescent), which regulated such livelihood-relevant access long before the TRBR establishment (1979).
- (ii) TC not only **formalizes Brazil nut use** but also **unintentionally restricts** resource access (oligopsony), limiting *Quilombolas'* use and benefits.

5.1 Framing –insights –responses

Figure 2: Framework of ingredients for navigating social-ecological tradeoffs around protected areas



5.2 Wrapping up –policy options

- (i) Land tenure security by titling claimed *Quilombola* Territory, **recognizing collective land tenure** claim partially overlapping with TRBR;
- (ii) Resource access through **deliberative council for co-management** of PAs by traditional communities;
- (iii) **Local adaptation of TC** while co-creating an enabling institutional environment;
- (iv) **Inclusive grievance mechanisms** for PA-affected rightsholders to voice complaints and co-decide on access limitations;
however: lack of coordination (horizontal and vertical) of ombuds offices, i.e. *Ministério Público* (MP), not only inhibits efficiency, but also local accessibility;
now: “Programme of Digital Inclusion” of MP by facilitating access for leaving no one behind.