

Just transitions for worthy lives: beyond fossil and green colonialism

Ecuadorian Amazon Region: Agroecological Multitudes and Overcoming Geographies of Extractivist Sacrifice

Francesco Facchinelli, Daniele Codato, Edoardo
Crescini, Massimo De Marchi

XIV Edizione della Giornata di Studio "Oltre la Globalizzazione"
a cura della Società di Studi Geografici



Oltre la globalizzazione

Transizioni *Transitions*

Firenze, 6 dicembre 2024

Università degli studi di Firenze

Dipartimento di Scienze per l'Economia e l'Impresa



XIV Edizione delle Giornate di Studio
"OLTRE LA GLOBALIZZAZIONE"
a cura di Società di Studi Geografici
www.societastudigeografici.it



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
FIRENZE
DISEI
DIPARTIMENTO DI
SCIENZE PER L'ECONOMIA
E L'IMPRESA

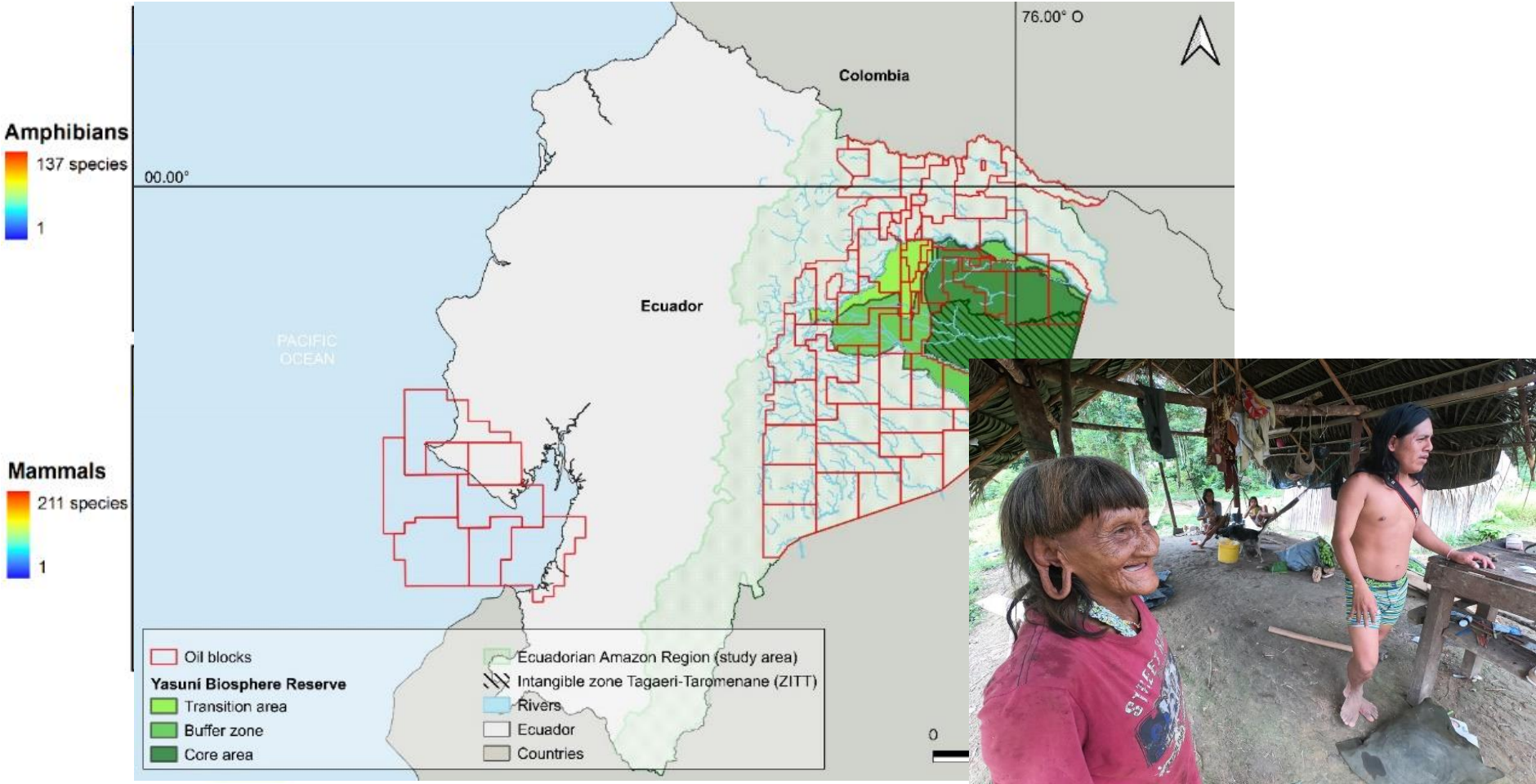


UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



Associazione
GIShub

The Ecuadorian Amazon Region



The Yasuní case, history of an environmental conflict

Ecuador vota a favor de detener la explotación petrolera en una de las zonas de mayor biodiversidad del planeta



The Yasuní case, history of an environmental conflict

1950: First contacts with indigenous populations

1967: Oil discovery

1993: Texaco Case

1999: Zona Intangible Tagaeri Taromenane

2006: New constitution (rights of nature)

2008: Correa: Yasuni-ITT Initiative

2010: Bass et al

2013: «the world treasoned us» end of the Yasuni-ITT Initiative

2014: First attempt to call for a referendum – Obstacles from the president Correa

2016: start of extraction in the ITT oil block

2018: another referendum to diminish the affected area

2023: end of the legal trial – start of the referendum

08/2023: the referendum is won

Now: popular monitoring of the implementation

Extractivisms

Oil

67,957.39 km²

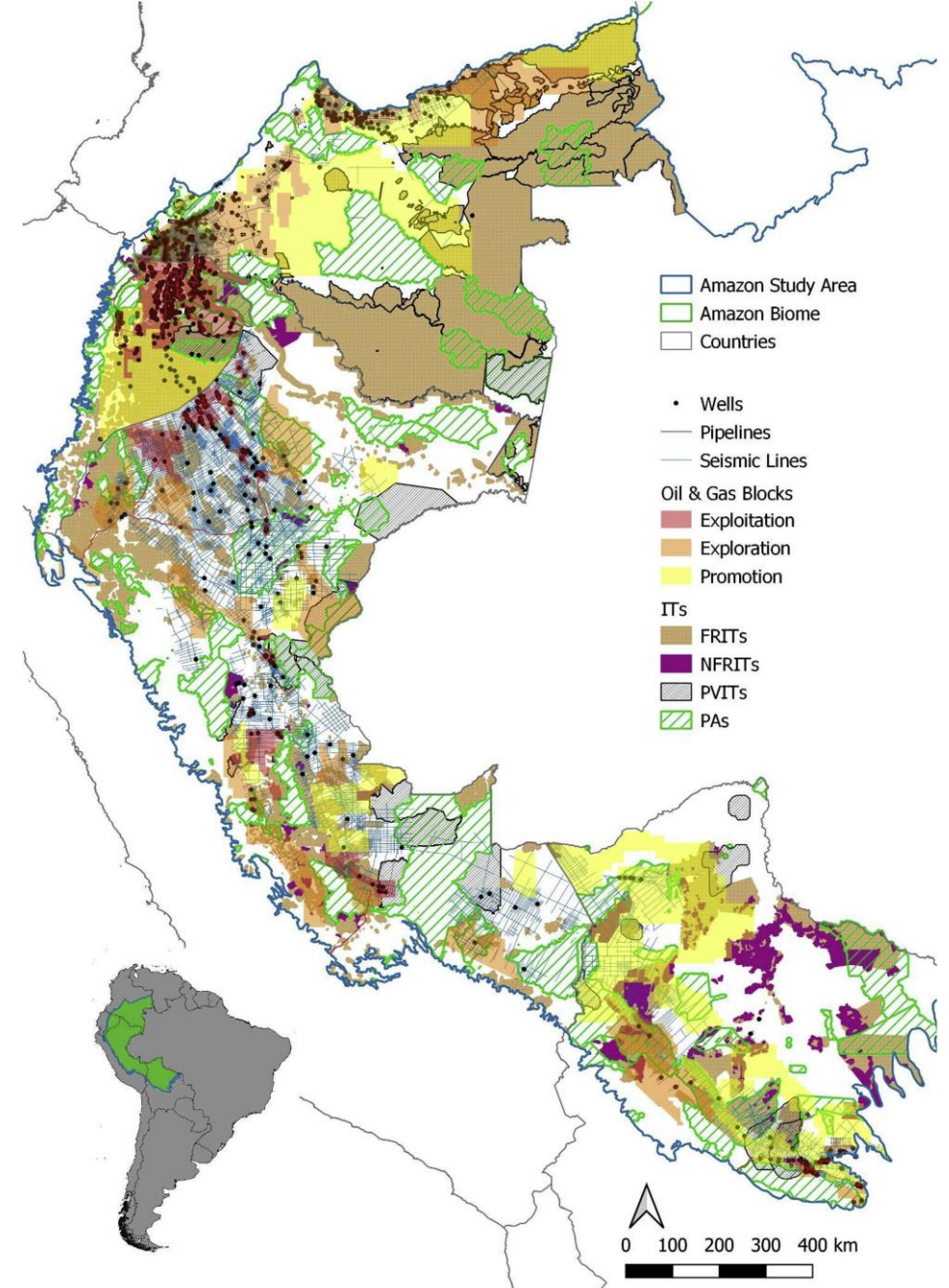
Encompasses:

-21.61% of the PA within the EAR

71.76% of formally recognized indigenous territories

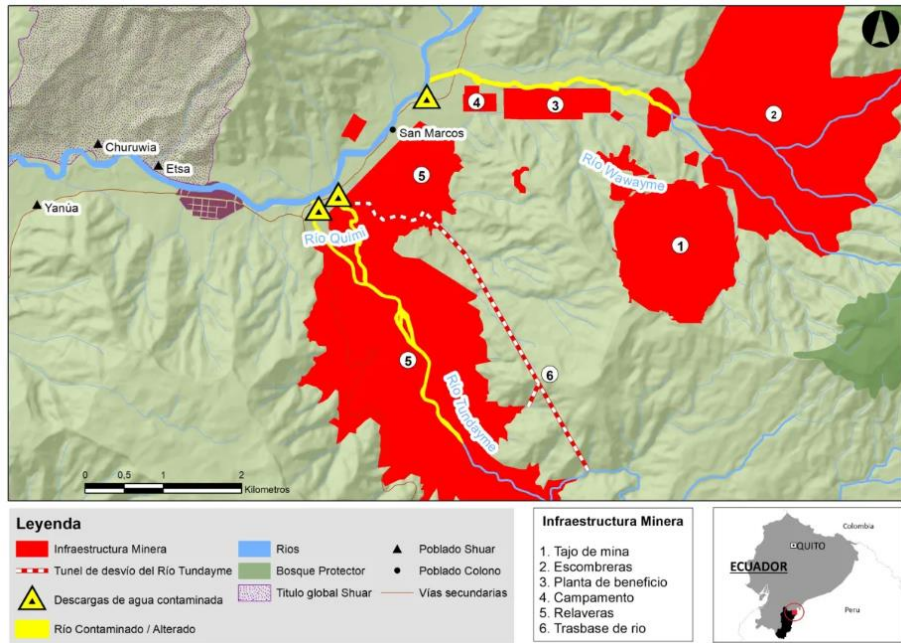
In the '70s extracted the first barrel of oil

Wide set of impacts on ecosystem and local communities with the associated environmental conflicts

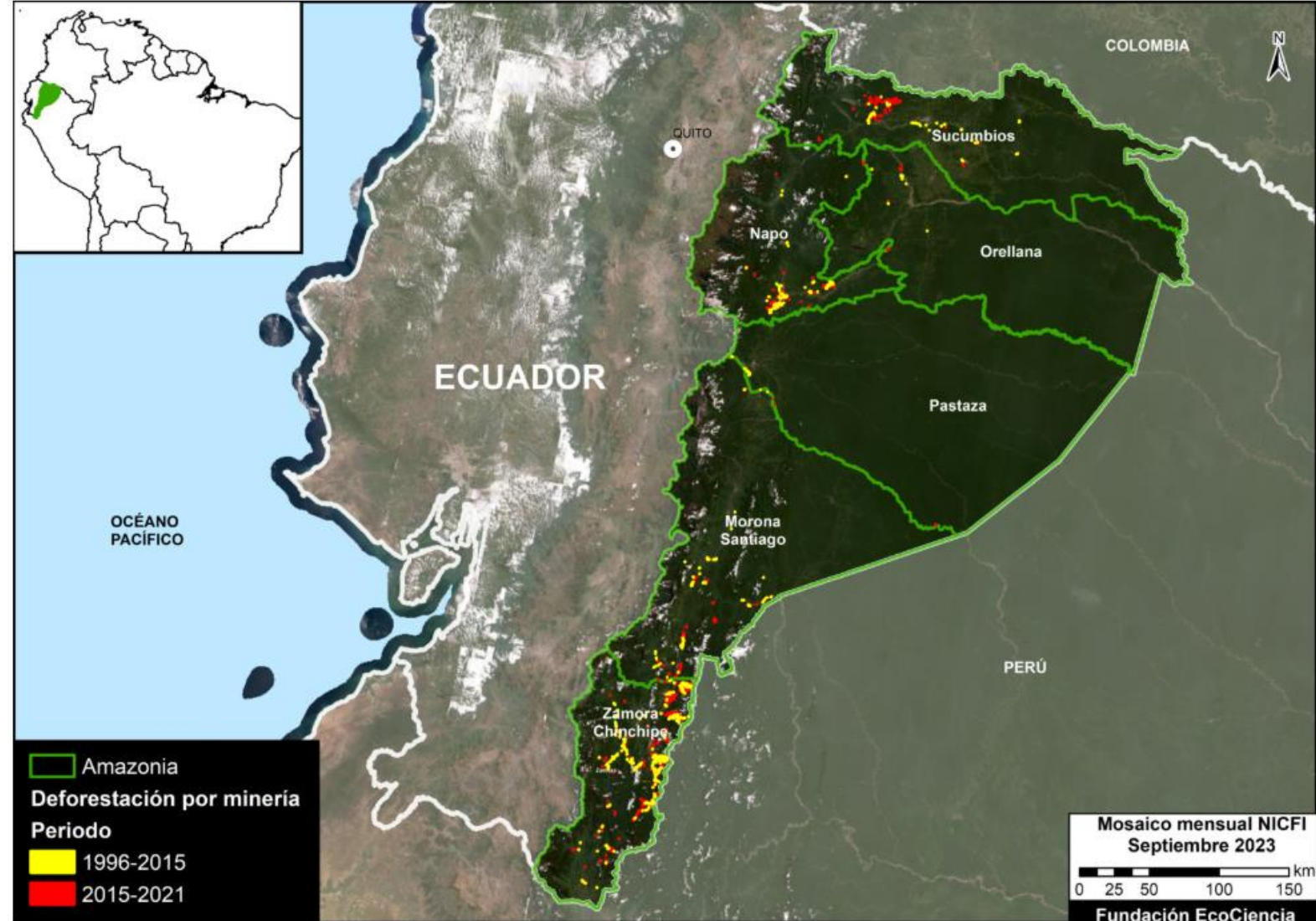


Extractivisms

Mining



Colectivo de Geografía Crítica, 2019



Deforestación provocada por la minería en la Amazonía ecuatoriana en color rojo y amarillo. Datos: MapBiomas Amazonia, 2022. Mapa elaborado por EcoCiencia y MAAP.

Extractivisms

Monoculture - Oil palm



[Destacadas](#) [Videos](#) [Podcasts](#) [Especiales](#) [Artículos](#) [En corto](#)

[Donar](#)



La palma se expande sin control en la Amazonía ecuatoriana y genera divisiones en pueblos indígenas

Photo: Edoardo Crescini



Conservation: just another kind of colonization?

Environmental sanctimony describes bourgeois environmentalism, extremely conservative, anchored to an environmental consciousness that emerges within capitalism. **This type of environmentalism aims to alleviate the anguish of the damage that capitalism causes while expanding the possibilities of capitalist accumulation.** It does so through charity and conservation projects, with actions that do not alleviate the structural causes of environmental destruction or social injustice, but rather clean up the image of a highly destructive system. Furthermore, bourgeois environmentalism reinforces dangerous racist, sexist, classist and xenophobic policies.

Moreano, M., 2020. «Ecofascismo: uno de los peligros del ambientalismo burgués» Ecología Política, 59: 36-44

From a rather simplistic logic, the bad guys from the North will pay the good guys from the South to repair their damage, to continue causing it with less criticism and more legitimacy, because they pay for that. The people of the South should use this money to conserve nature and to invent a new way of life that harms less the Pachamama. [...] We believe that **paying for the violence exercised against Pachamama is not an alternative**, nor is placing the responsibility on women; we believe that we must start **from a collective work in which everyone**, communities, countries and states, recognize, assume and respect Pachamama as a whole that has life and generates life as well. *Asambleas del Feminismo Comunitario. (2010). Pronunciamiento del feminismo comunitario latinoamericano en la Conferencia de los Pueblos sobre Cambio Climático.*

LA LÍNEA DE FUEGO

REVISTA DIGITAL

INICIO POLÍTICAS ECONOMÍAS DERECHOS FEMINISMO CULTURAS MUNDOS COVID 19 ESPECIALES LIBROS ENTREVISTAS FOTORREPORTAJES

AMÉRICA LATINA MEDIO AMBIENTE

SOCIO BOSQUE Y EL CAPITALISMO VERDE* por Melissa Moreano Venegas[i]

By *latineadefuego* septiembre 4, 2012 7 578



Quien ama la vida protege los bosques



Logics of extractivism

The “**classic**” **extractivism** is expected to generate economic growth and, in turn, promote “spillovers” to the rest of society. At the same time, citizen protests against the social and environmental impacts of exploitation are minimized, denied or repressed.

Neo-extractivism goes beyond the ownership of resources, whether state-owned or not, since it ends up reproducing the structure and operating rules of capitalist production processes, focused on competitiveness, efficiency, maximization of income and externalization of social and environmental impacts.

Gudynas, E. (2012). Estado compensador y nuevos extractivismos Las ambivalencias del progresismo sudamericano. Nueva Sociedad, 128–146.

Sacrifice Geographies

Zonas de impacto directo de las actividades extractivas (minería, petróleo y agroindustria) son nombradas por el poder como zonas sacrificables, descartables. Los “territorios socialmente vaciables” lo son “en la medida en que, a excepción de los recursos estratégicos, no contendrían elementos o bienes valorizables por el capital”

Hope Geographies

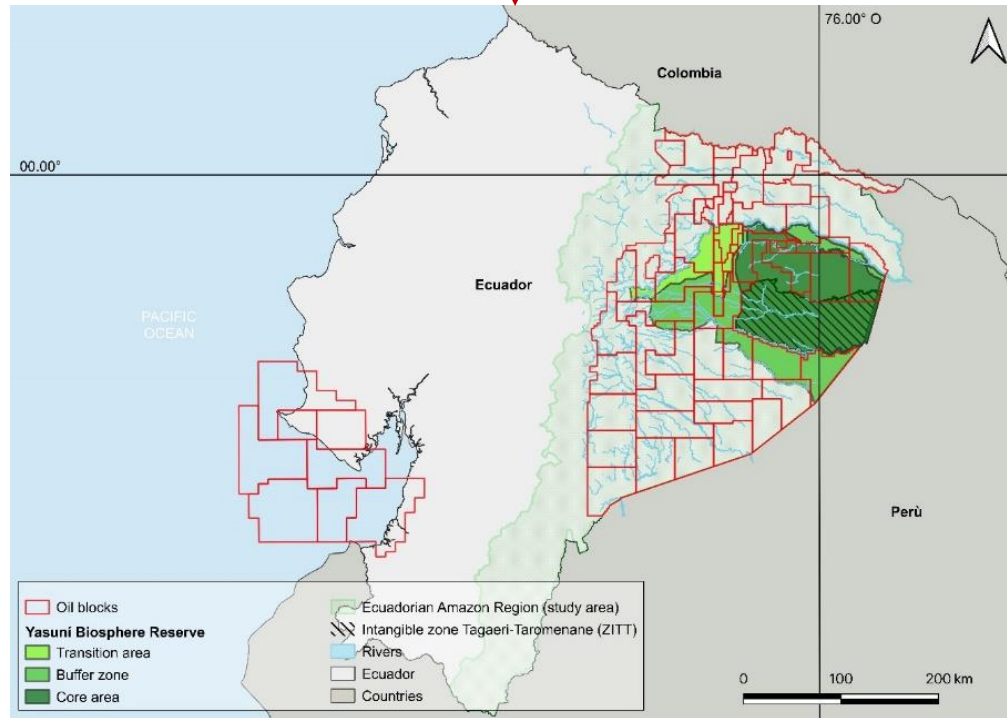
Here and there, new social movements are rising up in search of alternatives, spatio-temporal utopias that configure the counterpart of sacrifice and that we call here “spaces of hope”.

Silveira, M. M. M., Moreano, M., Romero, N., Murillo, D., Ruales, G., & Torres, N. (2017). Geografías de sacrificio y geografías de esperanza: tensiones territoriales en el Ecuador plurinacional. *Journal of Latin American Geography*, 16(1), 69–92. <https://doi.org/10.1353/lag.2017.0016>

Approaches to territorial development

Conservation

Extractivism



Agroecology

Nature Matrix

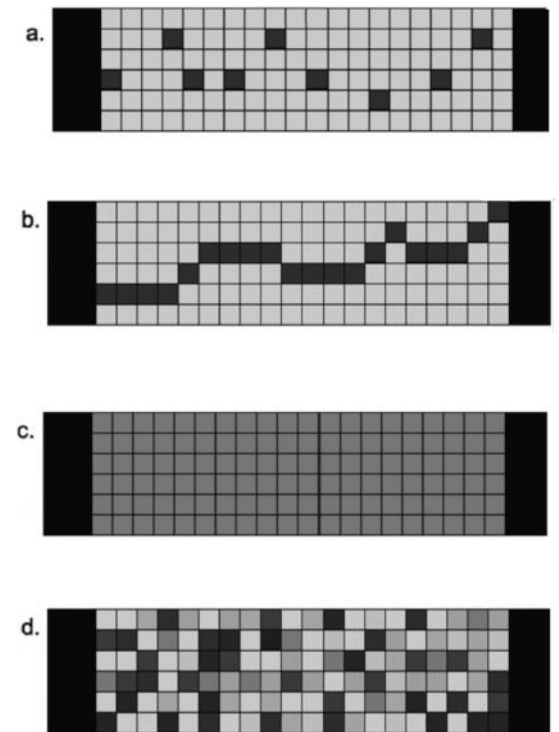
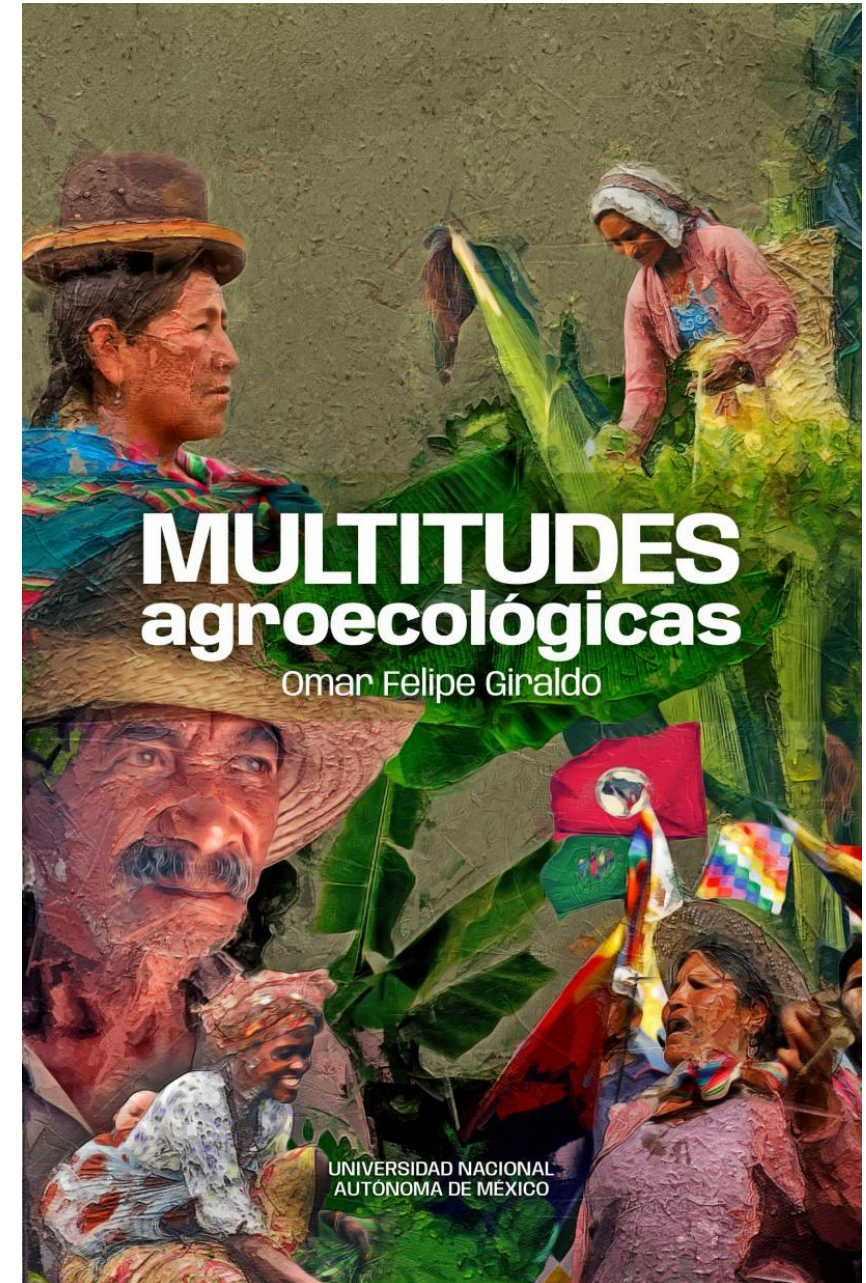


Figure 2.9 The various types of matrix that connect two forest fragments.
Source: The authors.

The concept of agroecological multitudes

The multitudes are not crowds, but multiplicities of autonomous communities of small dimension, managing themselves not in the metaphysical administrative divisions of the nation state, but in territorialities that follow the folds of the earth.

A macrostructure composed of micropolitical acts whose strength is its indeterminacy, its chameleon-like capacity to be many things at the same time, which makes it difficult to be codified and phagocytized within the logic of capital.

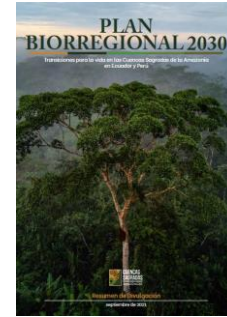


Agroecological multitudes in the EAR

Environmentalist organizations
and small NGOs

Anti-oil grassroots
movements

Indigenous organizations



3RA. FERIA AGROECOLÓGICA SHUSHUFINDI 2023

Sabado 28 de Octubre 9:00 hrs

Parque Siona - av. Orellana y calle Siona

Exposición y venta de productos orgánicos con valor agregado.
Venta de plantas y semillas exóticas.
Gastronomía. Artesanías.
Biomagnetismo.
Exposición cultural. Danza.

Para inscripciones - Flor Pogo 0958815109

Academics and NGOs

Campeños communities



Challenging the root of extractivism

Industrial agriculture of big capital displaces through expansion peasant agriculture (such as banana plantations or palm oil cultivation in the coastal region) or it integrates it by subordinating the workforce (as with the flower-growing industry in the mountain region). In this context, **agroecology may offer the only form of peasant resistance because it interferes with the logic of capital domination.** Thus, a diversified agroecological holding does not transfer the value of peasant labor (by subordination) but rather integrates it in an autonomous fashion. Nor does it transfer the value of the agricultural produce (via unremunerated market demand) but instead **achieves a self-sufficiency of food needs** and services the alternative market. Finally, it **breaks the technological dependency by renouncing the packages of the Green Revolution.** Instead, it gives rise to a different form of development for peasant agriculture.

Intriago, R., Gortaire Amézcuca, R., Bravo, E., & O'Connell, C. (2017). Agroecology in Ecuador: historical processes, achievements, and challenges. *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, 41(3–4), 311–328. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2017.1284174>

Conclusions

Going beyond extractivism calls for more than create “safe areas” to protect biodiversity, and agroecology provides a possible framework for this transition (Giraldo, 2022)

The agroecological movement is deeply embedded within Amazonian territories, albeit not as a coordinated movement

There are various interactions between agroecological practices (and the attempt to build sustainable communities) and anti-extractivist mobilizations, demonstrating that grassroots movements are already aware of the central role of the food systems in overcoming extractivism and creating just futures

Grazie per l'attenzione!

