

# Kuakuaíl II

## North Atlantic Autonomous Region

### NICARAGUA

Haga clic para modificar el estilo de subtítulo del patrón

Case study

Centre for indigenous peoples autonomy and development  
CADPI

# Objective

- Identifying traditional knowledge and practices of Miskitu people in Kuakuail II, about the forests, and to study, illustrate, and strengthen processes, mechanisms, and strategies for protecting and revitalizing the forests, especially to help mitigate climate change impacts.

# Specific objectives

1. Study in depth some distinctive practices of the indigenous Miskitu people within the particular Kuakuail II ecosystem that help reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, help sustainable forest management and conservation, and improve carbon retention. (This is a way to illustrate their holistic and multifunctional vision of forest use (cultural, spiritual, biodiversity, food, medicine, etc.).

# Methodology

- Exploratory visit;
- Participatory observation process;
- Interviews with both men and women community leaders;
- Focal groups in the community;
- Gathering Information from the CADPI Diploma Course in Sahsa community.
- Documentary information - process of land demarcation and titling.

# Kuakuail II

- Location NAAR – (RAAN in Spanish)
- Population = 26 families = 124 person
- 1,956 Ha. = 75.2 Ha/family
- Communal property – collective rights
- No electric service
- No pipe water service
- No road access
- No health centre
- No school building

# Forestry Action Plan (PAF)

- Approved by INAFOR.
- The plan was made to take advantage of wood from 300 hectares of trees felled by Hurricane Felix in 2007.
- Previous Hurricane Felix, Kuakuail II had the largest forest reserve in the Tasba Pri territory.

# Community structure

## Communal Assembly

- *Síndico* (Coordinator) and Vice *Síndico*
- Elders' Council
- Spokesperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Women's Organization
- Education Director
- Health Director

# The community management of forests

- In the Miskitu language there are three words related to the concept of forest, and they are used in function of the particular characteristics of the forests and its use:

*unta, unta tara and dus ailal.*



## *unta* and *unta tara*

- *Unta* = bush
- *Unta tara* (tall trees) with many years old.
- In both cases wild animals are present, but in the *unta* it is more difficult to hunt because of the presence of humans which drives the animals away;
- the *unta tara*, have more animals, but they are far a way from villages.

# *Unta*

- has medicinal plants (shrubs) that are not found in the *unta tara* because the shade from the tall trees does not allow small plants that need a lot of sun to grow.
- But there are some medicinal plants. Cortezas o lianas

## *Unta tara*

- is used only as a reserve – it is conservation area.
- No slash-and-burning. There is no farming.
- Lumber is taken in a rational way.
- Sporadic hunting takes place.

## *Dus ailal*

- Refers to a very closed forest, rich in precious wood species and biodivers. It has the same characteristics as the *unta tara*, but is a reserve area – strongly limited access area

# Land tenure system

- Collective
- Unattachable
- Inalienable
- Imprescriptible
- constant and real threat of illegitimate and illegal land sales in the Autonomous Regions

# Edgar Boork - Síndico

- *We do not have a forest inventory, but we know about what we have in the forest, like the palm of our hand ... if you come and ask me for a tree species, I just walk around, and I will take you ... I was born there, and I know where the type of tree or plant you want to see is.*

## Types of broadleaf forest species found in the Kuakuail II forest

Wood Type	Common Name	Scientific Name
Hard Wood	Come negro	<i>Dailum guianensis</i>
	Quebracho	<i>Guarea grandifolia</i>
	Nancitón	<i>Hyeronima alchormeiodes</i>
	Frijolillo	<i>Leucaena shannoni</i>
	Quita calzón	<i>Astronium gravedaus</i>
	Mora	<i>Vataire lundellii</i>
	Níspero	<i>Manilkara achras</i>
	Coyote	
	Granadillo	<i>Dalbergia tucurensis</i>
	Cortez	<i>Tabebuia chrisanta</i>
	Guapinol	<i>Hymenaea courbaril</i>
Semi-hard Wood	Santa María	<i>Callophilum brasiliense</i>
	Cedro macho	<i>Carapa guianensis</i>
	Guayabo negro	<i>Terminalia spp.</i>
	Leche maría	<i>Simphonia globulifera</i>

# Other species

- Tuno, Hule (tása, rubber), Nispero (chicle, gum), Puhlak (guano);
- there are others species that we use to make beds, houses, ceilings; there is a *bejuco* (wicker) used to tie constructions; it becomes very firm when it dries (kakamuk wakia-tendón de iguana-iguana tendon); or a *bejuco* for making baskets (usnun).
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# Felino species

- Leopard (limi bulni);
- striped tiger;
- panther (limi siksa);
- limi pauni (puma);
- tigrillos (limi kruhbu);
- lim wayata (gato de monte).

## Other species are:

- chanco de monte (wari, wild pig); sahino (buksa); flamingo (suki); pavo (kusu, turkey); pava loca (kuamu); chachalaca (wasakla); gallina de monte (wankar); gallina de monte pequeño (suhar), oropendula (tulu), tucán (three kinds), rak, yamukla (urraca); plis, lapas (apawa, macaw); loras, parrot (there are six types); chocollo (risku, three bird species); and many, many, many others.

# Animal species

- Danto (tilba, American tapir); there are three classes of deer - white (sula pihni), cacho peludo (sang sang) and venado pucu (mountain goat – snapuka); guardiola, guardatinaja (ibinah); cusuku (tahira); guatuza (kiaki); rabbit (tíban); pizote (wisti tin); ant eater (winku); y winku tara; mapachín (suk suk); sloth (siwuaiku); white face monkey (waklin); Congo monkey (gungun); Spider moneky (Urus) o (ruskika).

# serpent and snake

- Among the species are: PIUTA... this word is used to denominate all types;
- at least six poisonous species have been identified and other boas (maksiksa); sulhkat, silviaru (coral), waula (boa), bull aikra (mata buey - ox killer).

# Medicinal plants

- Uña de gato (cats claw, pus asmala);
- Hombre grande (the same name is used in Miskitu, tall man – Big man), and is used to purify blood and many other uses);
- fruit bearing bejuco (urus u laika);
- escalera de mono (mukuka);
- kukulmeka (Chinese root).



- the *ulak*, to the *unta dukia* and to the *suimti* (*dwarfs - elves*).
- the latter would make you lose knowledge (*prahaku*) if you entered the bush alone.
- Elves/dwarfs were *bandidos* (*jokesters*) who would bother and shock people.
- *Liwa mairin*, also referred to the *Liwa sasukra* which mostly appeared in swamp zones.

# Use of the forest

- wood for construction, remodeling, and repair of houses;
- logs to use as a foundation for building houses;
- firewood taken mainly from tree trunks or wood left over from other uses; construction of rice pylons, mango (nuhmista) to use with the pylon, or to build the wabul ka paika (to prop up banana branches;



# Use of the forest

- to make washboards (kuala tus kaika);
- canoes (duri)
- paddle/oars (kuahi).

# Women and forest

- During the study it was noted that women face no normative or regulatory restrictions in this regard imposed from within the community.
- They go and take out firewood when they need it or medicinal plants at any time.
- They face no gender restrictions in the norms established to obtain permits to extract lumber for their own use.

# Women and forest

- Nevertheless, because of the multiple activities women carry out in the home on behalf of their families they do not have enough time to make the same use of the forest as men.
- That is where gender equity is lacking.

# Women and forest

- women have a very relevant role in the transmission of knowledge about the forest, of its use, and about species of animals and vegetation.
- The whole community, through its communal assembly, and the children have all learned from women where the markers of their territorial limits, cement posts with plaques, are located.

# Treats

- Agricultural border
- Migration
- Opportunistics
- Treats to identity

Tinky pali

Muchas gracias

Thanks a lot