Challenges in modelling social-ecological processes in tropical land systems leading to deforestation and forest degradation

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Study region



- Framing of the land-use system within the MAP region:
 - Climate change impacts such as droughts and floods, converge with land-use often beyond the law; e.g. forest loss and degradation.
 - Conceptualization of environmental and societal vulnerabilities as a cascade of interdependent tipping points of the social-ecological system.
- Hypothesis: When climate change impacts and soil degradation cross critical threshold levels economic livelihood starts diminishing and in turn triggers a tipping point of the social system leading to a drastic loss of social cohesion and further deterioration of ecological processes.
- Methods: Quantitative and qualitative analyses along the diverse system features, driving forces and external stressors.
- Goal: Investigate dynamics of the cascade of tipping elements and identify potential decisions to reach positive solutions for stabilizing and safeguarding social and environmental system components.



Tipping elements

We investigate the interactions along a cascade of 4 Tipping Elements with respective Tipping Points.



CESR Understand social drivers of change



U N I K A S S E L V E R S I T A T

- Mining activities (Madre de Dios),
- infrastructure development (Pando),
- changing (agricultural) practices (Acre),
- changing lifestyles of young people,
- weak governance etc.



U N I K A S S E L

VERSITÄT



New model processes & model coupling strategies required

CEST



Thank you for your attention!