

Forest Use, Scale, and Conservation with Panama's Wounaan. (Oral Presentation)

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Introduction

Over the last thirty years many fields have witnessed a heightened awareness of spatial and temporal scales.

Objectives

Here I use multiple scales to explore Wounaan indigenous peoples' forest use in eastern Panama.

Methods

Based on two and a half years of multi-sited fieldwork, I combine ethnohistory, indigenous cosmology, vegetation plots, remote sensing, and political ecology to examine representations of Wounaan and their forest use.

Results

I find that forest use can be distinguished by plot summary statistics, tree diameters, floristics, and cluster analysis, but such data are obscured in analysis with remotely sensed Landsat satellite imagery.

Conclusion

I illustrate how varying scale changes analytical results and how such results can be used to both construct authority and reinforce power.

Keywords: forest use, remote sensing, Wounaan, Panama

Selected References

1. Martin et al 2004
2. Viera et al 2003
3. Scott 1998

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