

# The Ecuadorian Amazon: Research and Perspectives

São Paulo School of Advanced Science Sustainable and Inclusive AMAZONIA  
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## Facts on the Ecuadorian Amazon

Area  
**48 %** of the national territory

Inhabitants  
**5 %** of the total national population

**11 indigenous groups**  
Kichwa, Shuar, Achuar, Sapara,  
Shiwar, Waorani, Andwa, Quijos,  
Siona, Siekopai, Aí Cofán

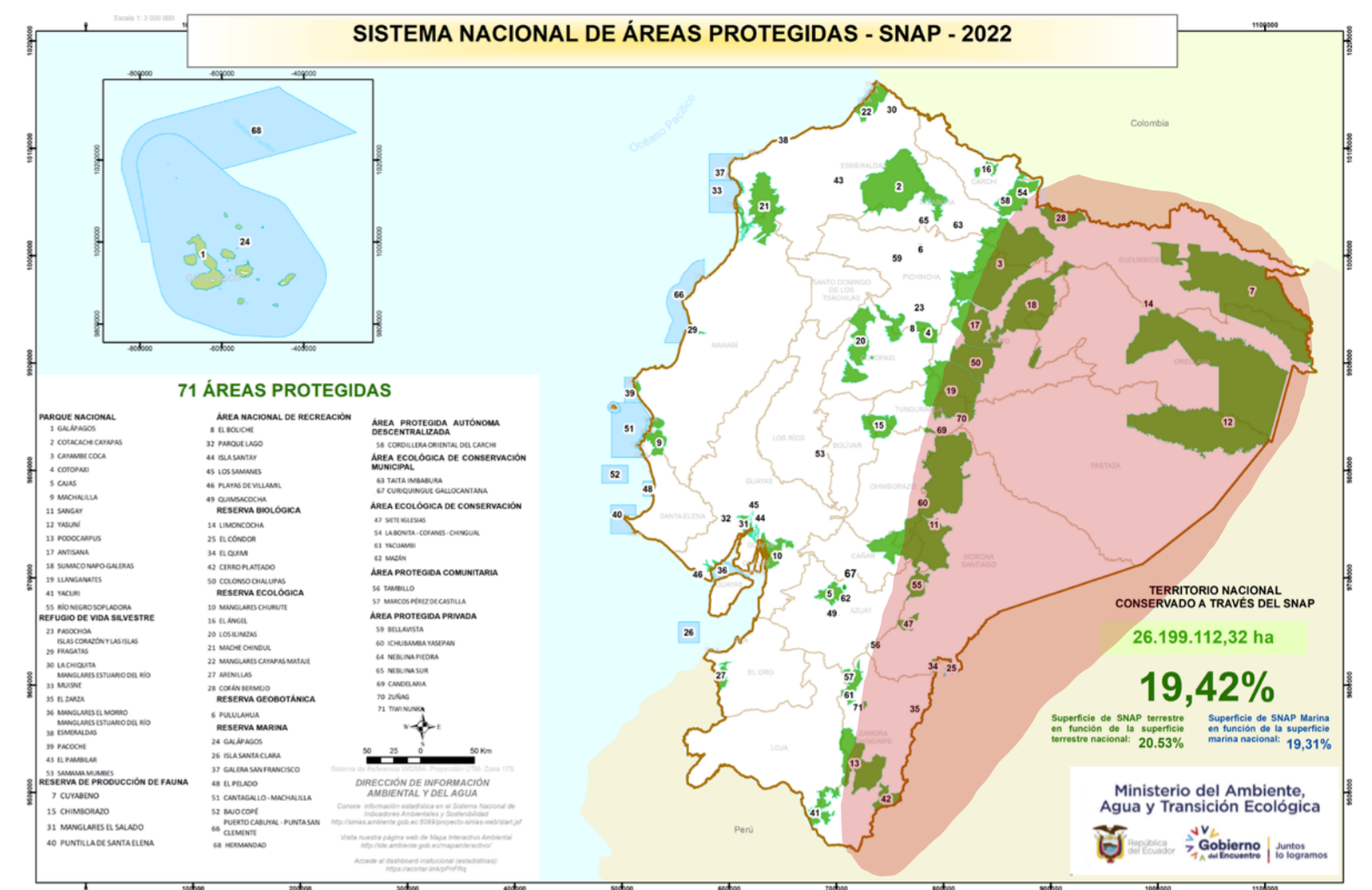
**68 %** of the region divided into oil blocks

More than **3,430 oil wells**

**> 9,500 km** of roads

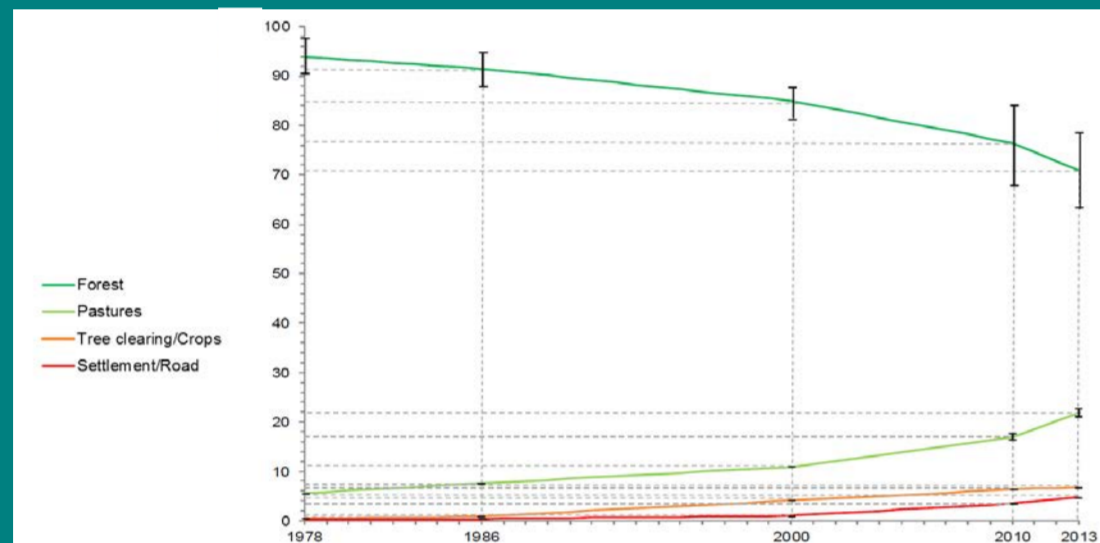
**650,000 ha** of lost rainforest  
1990 - 2016

CONFENIAE. (n. d.). *Nacionalidades – CONFENIAE. Deforestation in the Ecuadorian Amazon* (2018, October 5). Amazon Frontlines. Isaacson, A. (2010, October 13). Amazon Awakening. The New York Times. MAATE. (2021). *REPORT SNAP PERIODO 2021 (CIFRAS OFICIALES)*. Quito: MAATE

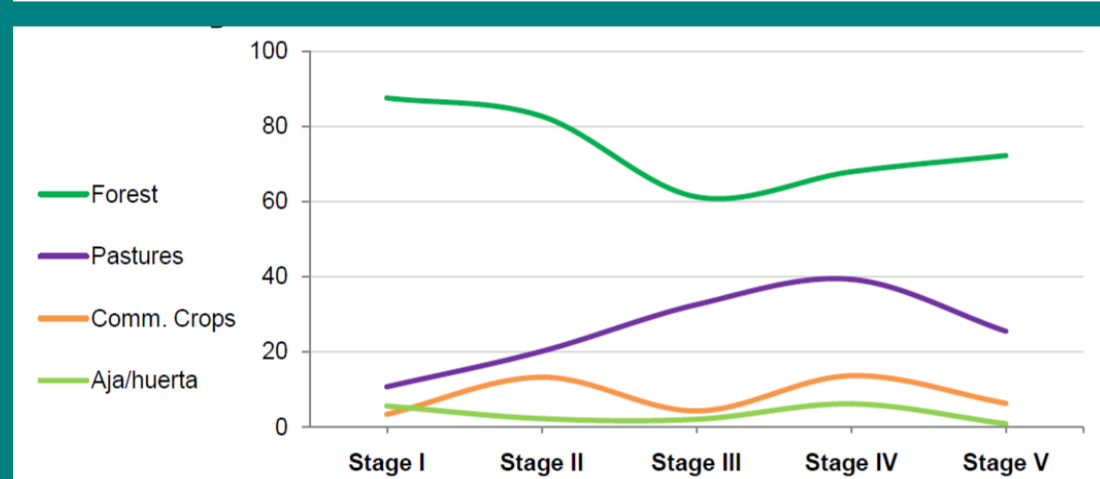


## 1 2014-2019: Land-use/land-cover change (LUCC) in the context of an agricultural frontier in the southern Ecuadorian Amazon: A multiscale and interethnic perspective

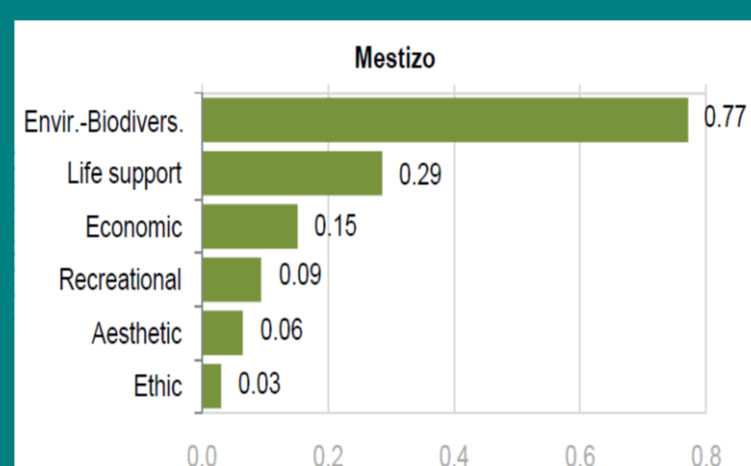
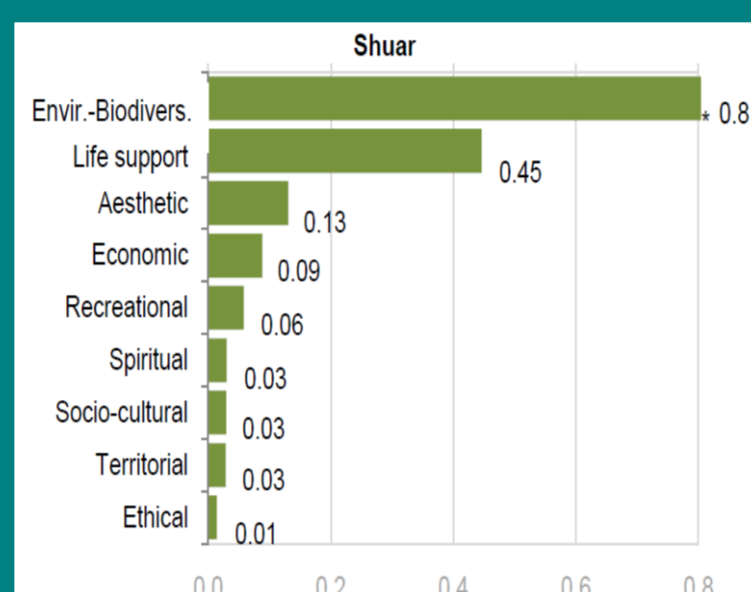
Mesoscale



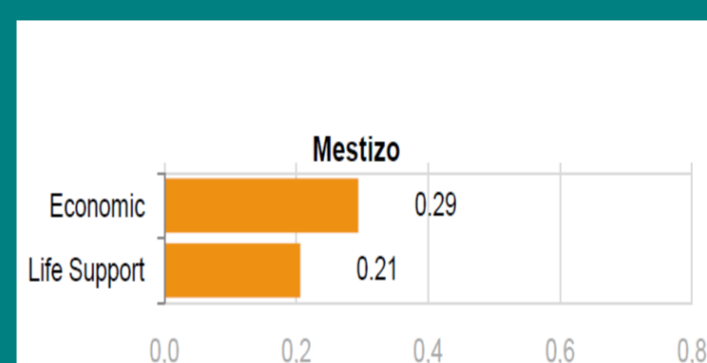
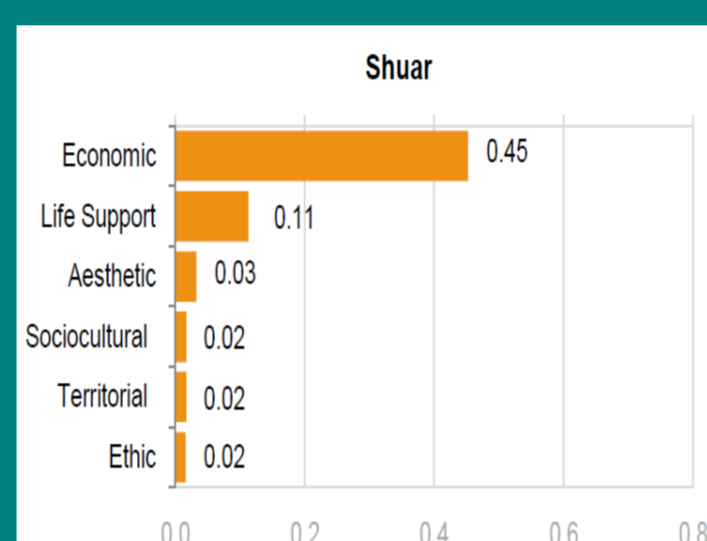
Microscale



### Forest values



### Commercial-crops values



Doctoral research at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg  
Supported by SENESCYT

## 4 2023-2024: “Land” and “territory” in the context of conservation projects in sensitive ecosystems in Ecuador

### Goals

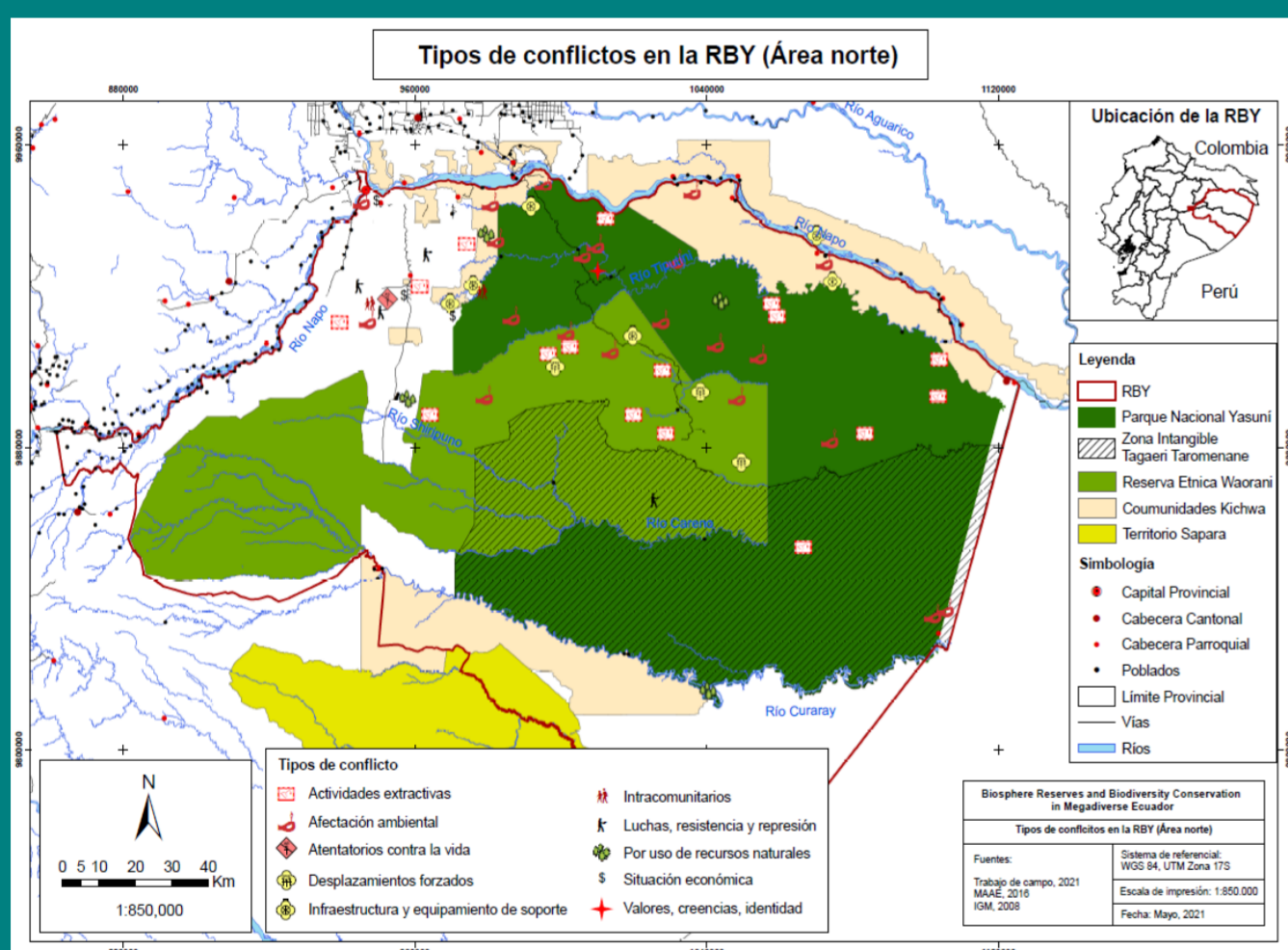
- To analyze the spatial categories of territory and land among two groups in the Ecuadorian Amazon
- Starting from those perspectives, to examine to what extent those concepts have influenced in their management experiences of conservation projects

### Motivations and challenges

- Participatory Action Research (PAR)
- Local knowledge in conservation
- Science communication, science popularization

Post-doctoral research at USC  
Supported by EU (Maria Zambrano Program)

## 2 2019-2022: Biosphere Reserves and Biodiversity Conservation in Ecuador



Research group: Pohle P., López M., Buitrón V., Gerique A.  
Implemented by FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg and FLACSO Ecuador  
Supported by DAAD

### Identified socio-environmental conflicts in the biosphere reserves

- Expansion of the agricultural frontier in the buffer zones of the biosphere reserves
- Extractive activities threaten the core zone and the local communities
- Pollution of water sources
- Land tenure and legalization

### Local challenges

- Implementation of the biosphere reserve concept in the multilevel territorial planning
- Diversification of the economic activities, connected to the biosphere reserve zoning
- Information and effective communication about the biosphere reserve management
- Management committees with diverse actors, inclusive participation
- Training, technical support, and project monitoring

## 3 2022: Interactions between the oil & environmental policy in Ecuador

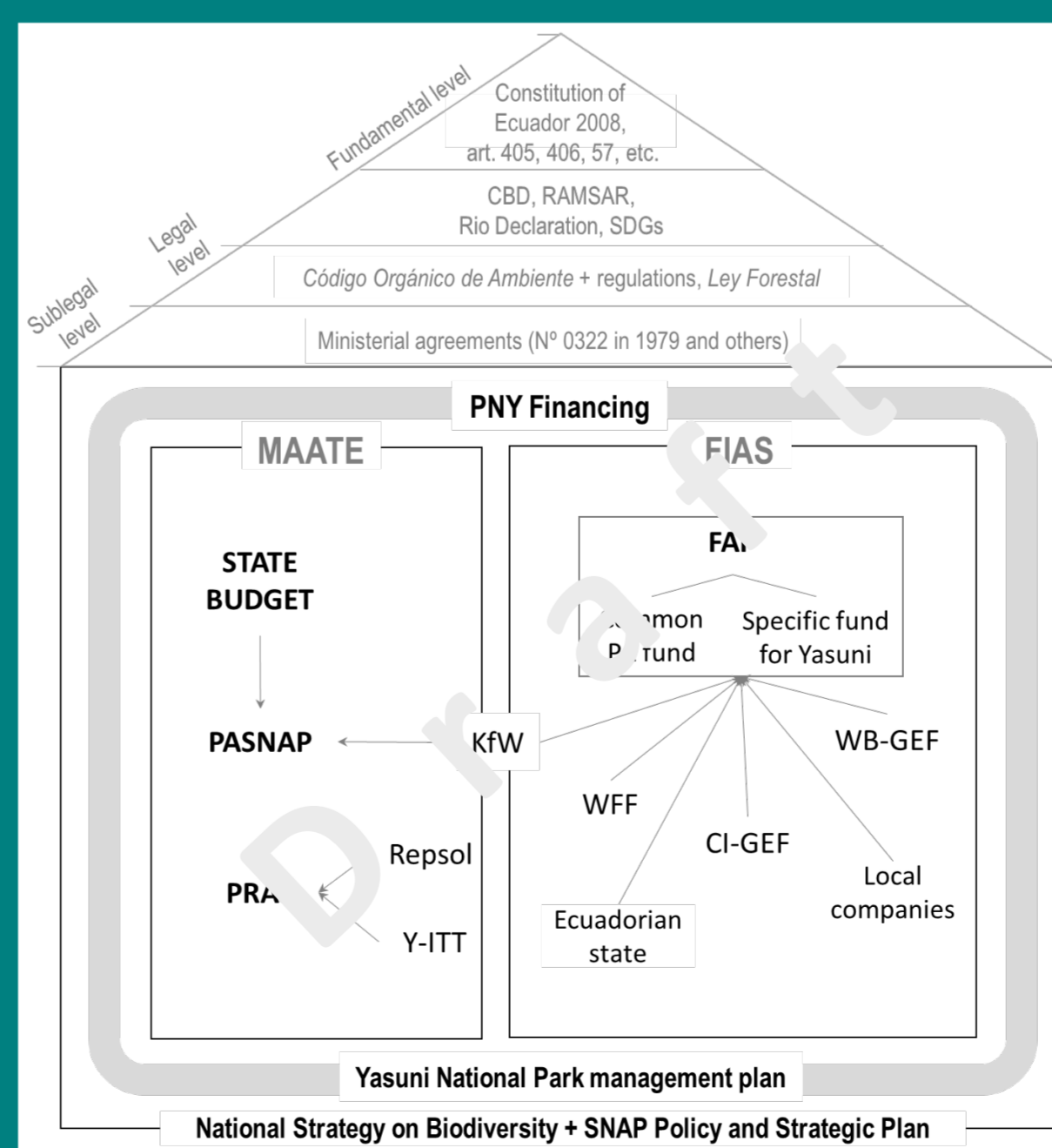
Given the well-studied opposition between resource extraction and conservation, this study rather asks about their interactions and the implications for conservation from the scope of Political Ecology.

The analysis examines the current oil and environmental policies in Ecuador as starting points and their interactions by focusing on the tensions and the affinities for conservation in protected areas (Yasuni National Park).

### Research questions

- What are the implications of the oil and environmental policies for conservation efforts?
- To what extent is conservation in protected areas, such as Yasuni National Park, dependent on the oil-sector funding?

Research group: Buitrón V., Borja D., Hayes J., Cáceres F.  
Supported by The School of Public Policy, University of Calgary



Financing scheme of YNP (not published yet)

## 5 Expectations & suggestions for cooperative work

- Innovative methodological approaches (from people to academia)
- Multiscale and multilevel research scopes
- Experiences of science and public exhibitions
- Articulation mechanisms between researchers, local people, NGOs, and decision-makers