

# CEJS Fellowship Final Report

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My research project examines the impacts of an Ecuadorian payment for ecosystem conservation program implemented on common-property forest lands. The objective of the study is to empirically test if and how the payments impact rural and indigenous communities' decision to participate in forest conservation agreements, individual forest use behaviors, and the resultant conservation outcomes. The project is co-authored with Tanya Hayes and Hendrik Wolff and funded by a NSF grant. The project uses a mixed methods approach (surveys, interviews, ecosystem evaluations and Geographic Information Systems - GIS), and we are currently in the data analysis and presentation of preliminary results phase of the project.

## Products and Activities:

### 1. Article manuscript

In collaboration with professors Hayes and Wolf we wrote a manuscript titled "Payment for Environmental Services: A catalyst for community resource management?" (see attached). The manuscript is based on data we collected in Ecuador (structured interviews to 60 community leaders and 450 households) and it will be submitted this quarter to the journal *Ecological Economics*.

### 2. Policy report and presentations to policy makers/communities

During summer 2014, we presented preliminary results to the Ecuadorian government agency responsible of implementing the Ecosystem Conservation Program, and we delivered them a Policy Report in Spanish (see attached). In addition, during the summer we presented results to the 12 indigenous communities that participated in the study, and conducted development workshops with support from three SU students.

### 3. Academic presentation

In spring 2014, I presented preliminary results at the Association of American Geographers Annual Conference. The presentation was titled "Collective Decision-Making to Participate in Payment for Ecosystem Services Programs: Evidence from the Ecuadorian Andes", and included support on statistical and GIS analysis from two SU students.