

# Social-Ecological Systems: From Brazil to Ethiopia.

**Mabel Baez - PhD Student (SFRC)**

## BIO



She is a PhD student in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida. She is advised by Dr. Broadbent. Dr. Almeyda Zambrano serves on her committee. Mabel completed her bachelor's degree at Colgate University in 2015 as a double major in Environmental Studies and Biology. As an undergraduate student at Colgate, and after graduation as a staff member, she worked in Professor Catherine Cardelús's Ecosystem Ecology lab. In 2013, Mabel worked in a nutrient addition study on canopy epiphytes in La Selva Biological Station, Costa Rica. Mabel has also studied the effects of liming as an acid rain mitigation technique on plant productivity and soil processes in the Adirondacks, New York (2013-2016). Also in New York State, she investigated deer overpopulation issues in the town of Hamilton and helped in the creation of research-based adaptive deer management (2013-2017). Currently, Mabel is part of an interdisciplinary team studying the conservation of church forest in Amhara, Ethiopia (2014-present). Her research also focuses on the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve (CMR) in Acre, Brazil. In particular, her research is a part of a multi-faceted project seeking to understand and improve extractive reserves as a conservation mechanism through natural resource monitoring and local engagement.

**TUE, MAR 12**

**12:45 - 1:45**

**Grinter 376**

Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropical Conservation and Development (TCD) Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Special guests, visiting scholars and practitioners also participate. It happens every Tuesday @ 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. in Grinter 376.

Tropilunch presentations are recorded and posted weekly on TCD's YouTube Channel.

## PRESENTATION SUMMARY

This presentation will focus on multidisciplinary research on social-ecological systems in the Chico Mendes Extractive Reserve in Acre, Brazil, and Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Churches. Social-ecological systems (SES) framework explicitly addresses the complex interactions and feedbacks between humans and ecological processes which can inform conservation practices in culturally and biologically diverse systems. SES often integrates research methods from various disciplines (ecology, sociology, etc.) to synthesize, integrate and analyze data. As a second-year Ph.D. student my research is still developing; therefore, I will focus on my proposed theoretical framework, fieldwork, and analysis.