

**TCD Practitioner Report: The Growing Dilemma of Timber Harvesting in Brazil Nut Rich, Community Forests in Northern Bolivia: Effects on Natural Regeneration and Forest Disturbance**

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I travelled to Cobija-Pando in August 25<sup>th</sup>. Upon my arrival I contacted the director of the Centro de Investigación para la Preservación de la Amazonia (CIPA) to ask for potential actors to invite to a presentation of my thesis results scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup>2010. CIPA's director suggested and later requested the vice-rectorado conference room for such a meeting. During the first days of my stay in Cobija, I was introduced to the executive president from the largest peasant community organization by chance, the Federación Sindical Única de Trabajadores Campesinos de Pando. Who after talking about the main results of my thesis, invited me to present the results of my research on the monthly meeting held by representatives of the different municipalities and communities of Pando. Before the presentation, I discussed my results with other researchers and colleagues working in community forestry related topics, which enriched the potential recommendations I could suggest. The executive president was very supportive of the findings and hopeful on the scientific basis of the research results to propose in the upcoming reformulation of Bolivia's current Forestry Law (a potential outcome of the social change the country is facing), so he also invited me to present my research at a meeting to be held on September 15<sup>th</sup>2010. The meeting will bring the campesinos and the governmental Forestry decision-makers together under the purpose of developing a proposal to be considered in the New Forestry Law concerning the Bolivian Amazonian forests. The following days to the presentation to the campesinos organization, I rented a motorcycle and contracted the owner of it so I could deliver the invitations to the different organizations, with potential interest in the subject of my research. After all that, we drove to the communities of my research site. First, I visited comunidad campesina San Antonio, and I was lucky to have met the former president of the community few days earlier in Cobija, who could arrange a meeting time with the community members so I could present and discuss the research results with them. I had a great interaction with the community people, I could ask their opinions and concerns, and surprisingly they could openly state their support, concerns and particular experiences around the subject, I could perceive better confidence than the first time I visited them to carry out the research. I guess it was because the approach of the research involved them in all steps, and because we were not strangers to each other anymore, it meant a lot to me to recognize that I have gained their trust. A similar interaction happened with the other two communities (comunidad campesina Purisima and Holanda), who welcomed me to return to their communities to carry out more research. Finally, my last presentation in Cobija city went alright, it counted with the participation of 2/3 of the invited institutions. I got many good insights to improve a presentation that I am intending to give on September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Conference Cycle organized monthly by IBIF. I have also sent a final version of my presentation to decision-makers to somehow contribute to the development of the new forestry law concerning Bolivian Amazonian forests.