

TROPILUNCH

Collaborative Governance in Micro-Hydroelectric (MHE) systems: preliminary assessment in two case studies

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BIO

Yadira Molina is a second-year PhD student in the Forests and Conservation (FRC-SFFGS) Program at the University of Florida. In 2022, with her extensive experience as a forester in Honduras, she earned a TCD Assistantship and an American Association of University Women (AAUW) Fellowship to pursue her master's degree in Sustainable Development at UF. In 2004, Yadira co-founded Fundación MaderaVerde, a nonprofit organization that works with local and indigenous communities in Honduras. From there, she led the development of the Green Broker Network. This community forest management initiative received the 2014 Innovation Award in Forest Finance from Yale and recognition from the Vidanta Foundation for its impact on poverty alleviation. Yadira also participated in the Voluntary Partnership Agreement negotiation between the Government of Honduras and the EU, advocating for the role of civil society in the forest governance process. Later, she contributed to revising the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standard for group entities in forest management communities.

SUMMARY



Yadira is sharing the preliminary assessment of her field research, which examines how variations in internal decision-making processes and policies have shaped community experiences with micro-hydropower in Honduras, as well as their impacts on forest conservation and local livelihoods. Last summer, she visited Copen and El Venado, two communities within the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (RPBR) buffer zone in Honduras, to gather initial data for two case studies on micro-hydro energy (MHE) systems.

This preliminary assessment lays the groundwork for further analysis in her research discussion, emphasizing the socioeconomic realities and motivations that drive these communities to engage in hydropower production. To examine how internal decision-making processes have impacted the success or failure of achieving long-term conservation of watershed forests through collaborative efforts. Yadira aims for her research to enhance understanding of the complex realities faced by local forest communities and their intricate relationships with their ecosystems, which is crucial for facilitating more effective policy decisions.



Tuesday - October 14, 2025

12:45 - 1:45 pm



Grinter Hall 376 or

Zoom link

Tropilunch is a 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 weekly around lunchtime.



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