

Indigenous Peoples and Lake Basin Management:
Lessons from Lake Atitlán, Guatemala
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Definitions and Dimensions around Indigenous Peoples

All indigenous peoples belong to an ethnic group as long as they are “people that self identify and differentiate themselves on the basis of descent.” (Adams,R.N.2002).

There are over 5,000 ethnic groups, speaking 6,000 languages in 200 countries of the world. (UNDP, 2004).

Indigenous People as Lake Stakeholders

What makes indigenous peoples a special group of lake stakeholders is their different relations with nature.

“Indigenous people are distinct populations in that the land on which they live, and the natural resources on which they depend, are inextricably linked to their identities and cultures” (World Bank, 2004).

Indigenous People and Policy

“One of the greater challenges that generate more division in contemporary policy debates are indigenous issues, extractive industries in their territories, and the intellectual rights to their traditional knowledge”

(Human Development Report 2004, UNDP).

International Policy and Law on Indigenous Issues

The most significant comprise:

1. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. 2007, and
2. The International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries. 1989

Multicultural Policies – the way to manage diversity

Two approaches to managing diversity:

- 1. Assimilation** – a conventional approach to try to build a single dominant identity
 - Violates cultural freedoms
 - Leads to tensions
- 2. Multicultural policies** of respect and recognition
 - Socially just (cultural rights)
 - Practically effective and feasible (Multiple, complementary identities)
 - Fosters sustainable development

Principles of multicultural policies

- Political participation (asymmetric federalism, proportional representation)
- Religious freedom (secularism with principled distance)
- Legal pluralism (recognition of customary law at the local level)
- Language policies (official language, bi-lingual education where possible)
- Socio-economic policies (equity measures including affirmative action)

UNDP, 2004

Participation, a key to planning and action with indigenous peoples

Tools for inclusion in lake basin management:

1. Participatory Rural Appraisals and Planning (PRA)
2. Participatory Mapping

Different Types of Participation¹

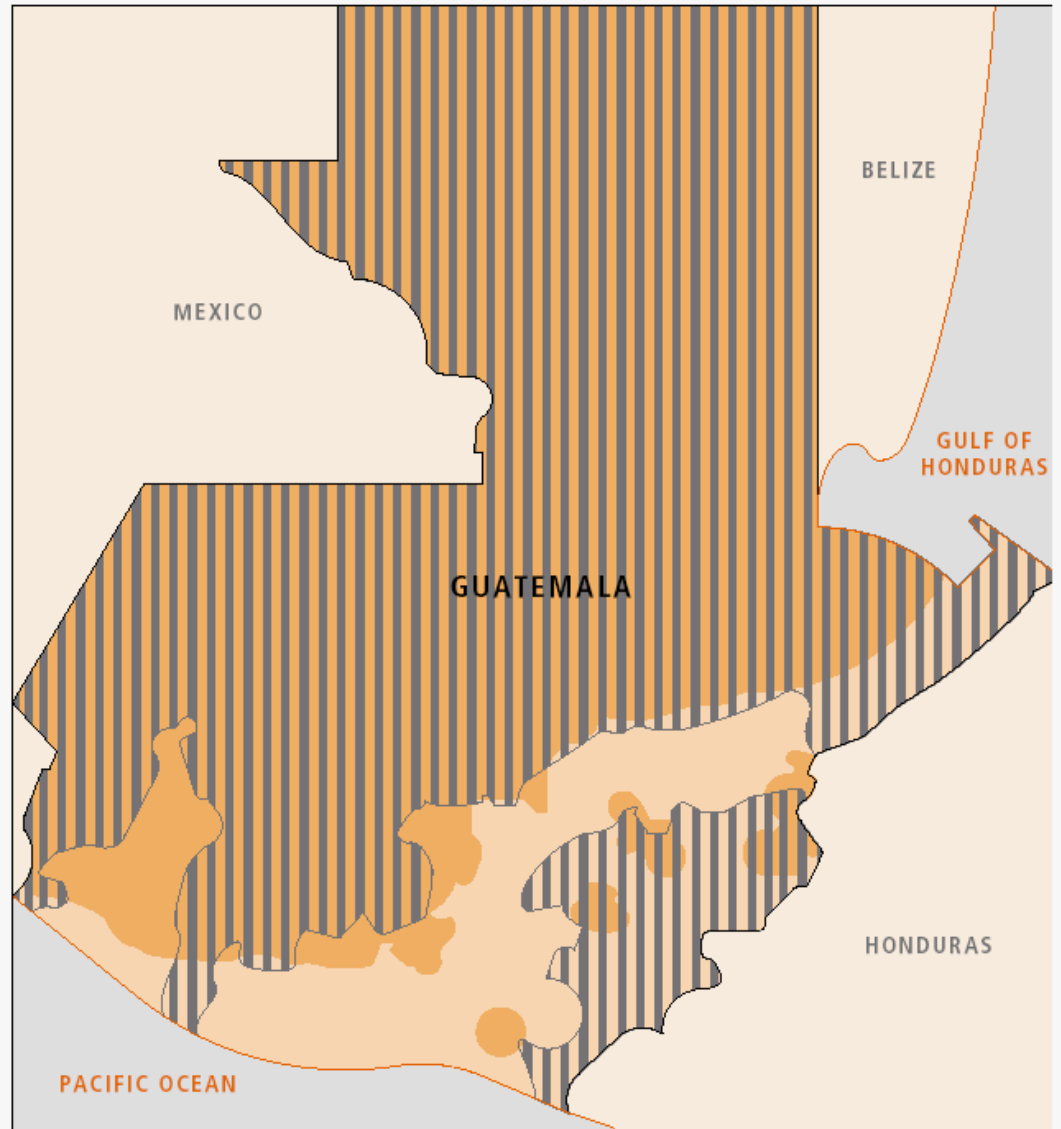
TYPOLOGY	CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH TYPE
Token Participation or Manipulation	People sit on official committees, but they are not elected and have no real power.
Passive Participation	People participate as recipients of information. They are told what has been decided or what has already happened. The administration or project management passes on this information, but does not listen to people's responses.
Participation by Consultation	People participate by being consulted or by answering questions. External agents define problems and information gathering processes, and control the analysis. The professionals are under no obligation to include people's views.
Participation for Material Incentives	People participate by contributing resources, for example labor, in return for food, cash or other material incentives. People provide these resources, but are not involved in decisions as to what is done. They have no stake in carrying on with things when the incentives end.
Functional Participation	People participate at the request of external agencies to meet predetermined objectives. There may be some shared decision-making, but this usually happens only after the big decisions have already been made by external agents.
Interactive Participation	People participate in joint analysis and development of action plans. Participation is seen as a right, not just the means to achieve project goals. The process involves methodologies that seek all the different perspectives and use structured learning processes. Because groups are involved in decision-making, they have a stake in maintaining the project. Local institutions are strengthened.
Self Mobilization	People participate by initiating actions independently of external institutions. They develop contacts with external institutions for the resources and technical advice they need, but control how the resources are used. The mobilization may or may not challenge existing distribution of wealth and power. Government and NGOs sometimes provide support for self mobilization.

¹ This was initially designed to assess participation in development projects, but has been adapted and revised for different purposes. See Biggs (1989), Hart (1992), Pretty (1995), and Cornwall (1995).

Map 2.1 Guatemala exhibits substantial overlap between linguistic communities and social exclusion
1998

Indigenous linguistic communities High social exclusion
Non-indigenous linguistic communities

Being a member of indigenous groups often means being excluded from social and economic opportunities



Lessons from Lake Atitlán



In multiethnic societies, social communication reflects very different views and opinions on the lake problems.

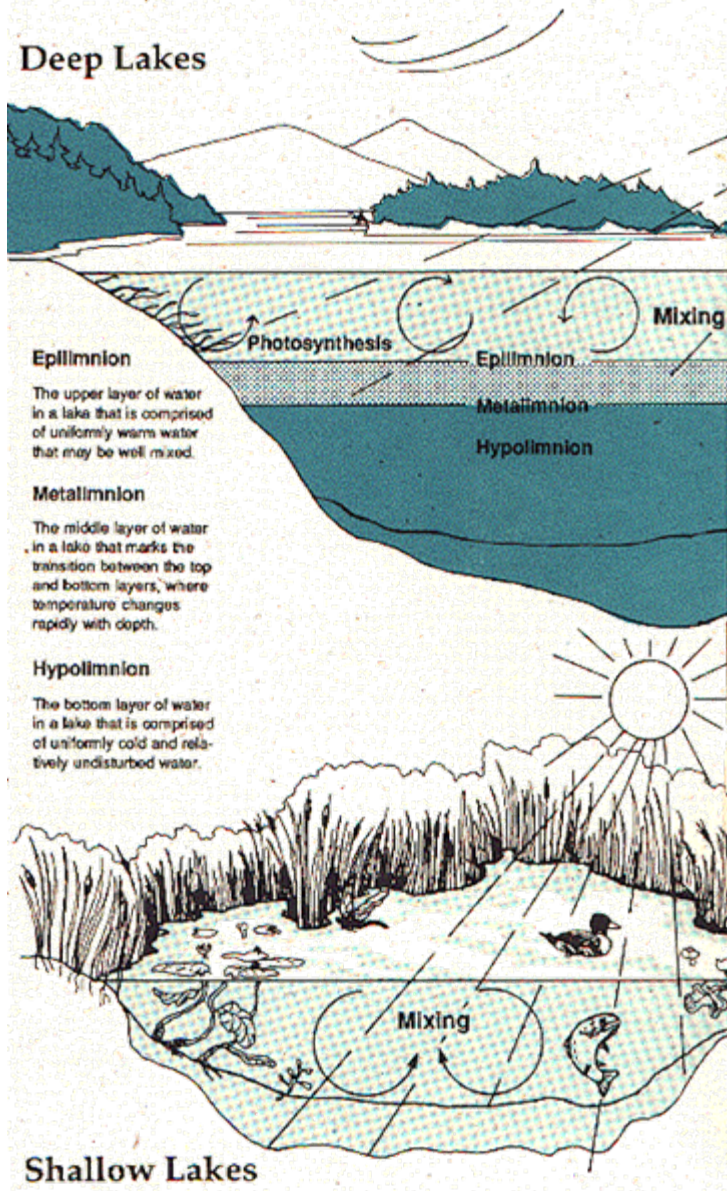


LAKE ATITLÁN IN BRIEF

- Depth (medium) $Z = 220$ m $Z_{\max} = 342$ m
- Lake surface area = 130 km²
- Drainage basin area = 580 km²
- Drainage basin population = $220,000$
- Average water transparency = 11 m

Lake Characteristics

Deep Lakes



Epilimnion

The upper layer of water in a lake that is comprised of uniformly warm water that may be well mixed.

Metalimnion

The middle layer of water in a lake that marks the transition between the top and bottom layers, where temperature changes rapidly with depth.

Hypolimnion

The bottom layer of water in a lake that is comprised of uniformly cold and relatively undisturbed water.

Shallow Lakes

THE ECOLOGY OF LAKE ATITLAN

Oligotrophic

30,000 years old

Low dissolved nutrients

Low productivity of fisheries

LAKE ATITLAN VALUES AND BENEFITS



Black bass and traditional fisheries



Reeds, mats, and ducks



Keisin Nobu Furuya



Keisin Nobu Furuya



Keisin Nobu Furuya

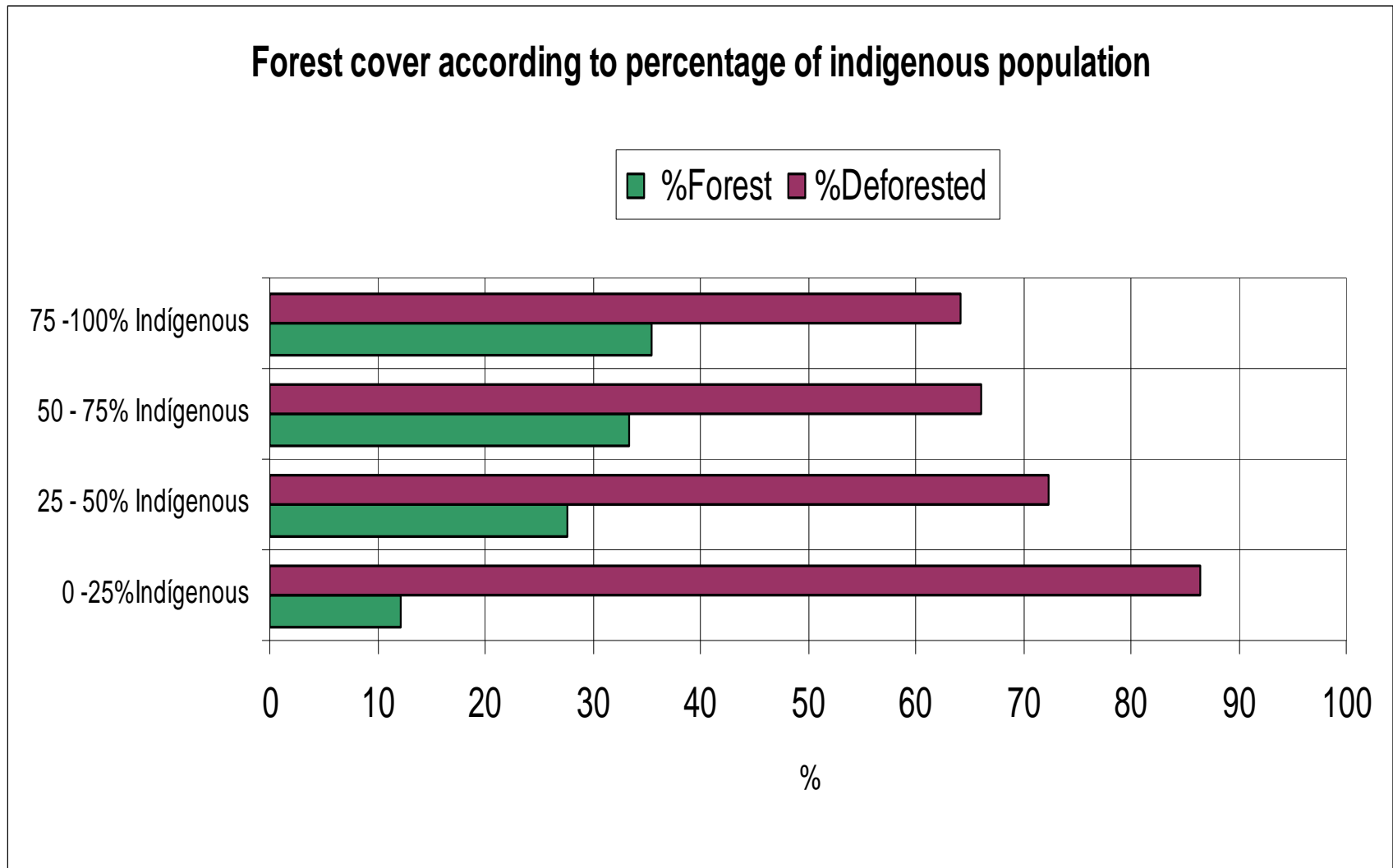
REED CROPS



Anne LaBastille



Forest and Indigenous people in Guatemala



Source: INE 2003, INAB 2002

Increasing forest vegetation in Atitlán

McBryde, Felix, Smithsonian Institute of Social Anthropology, 1945

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY



1934

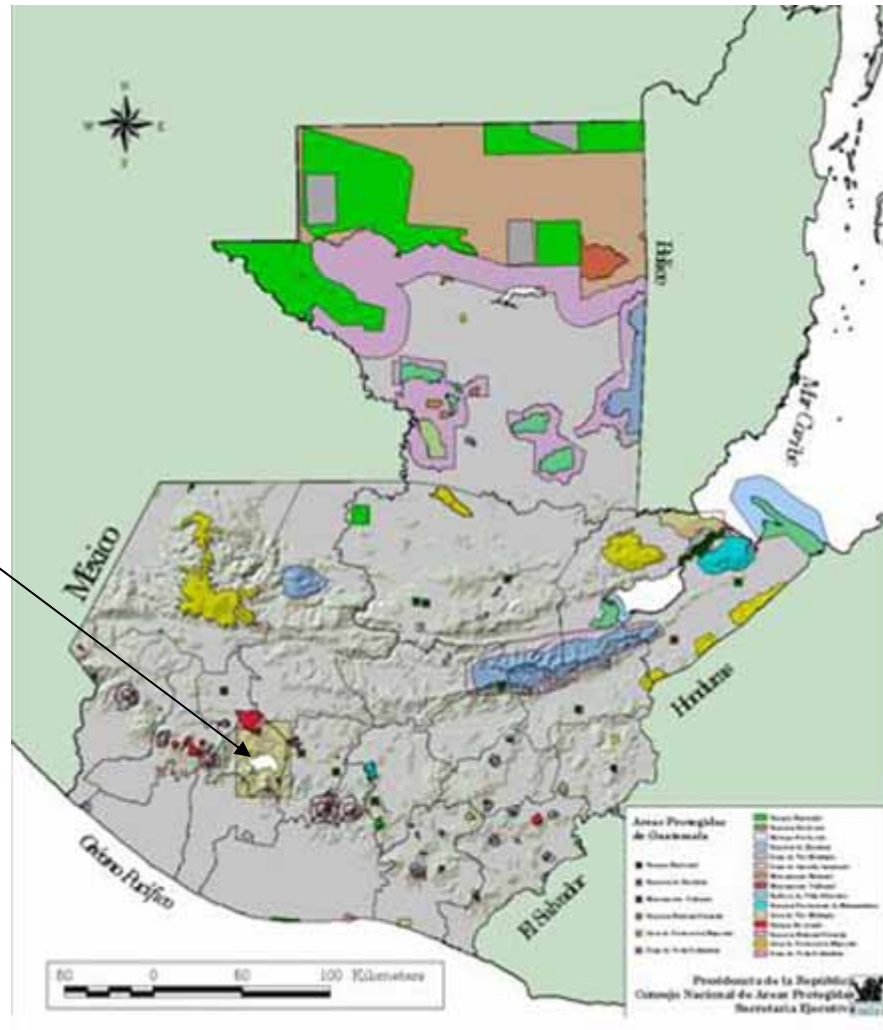
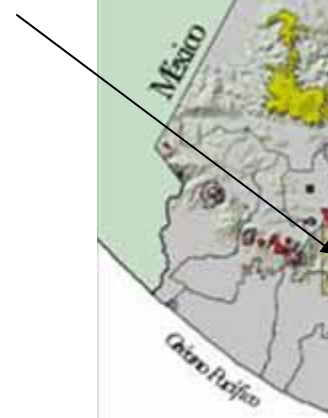


2004



Council of Protected Areas CONAP

Lake Atitlán
Basin declared
A Protected Area
In 1997.





Biodiversity at Atitlan



POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING PARTICIPATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL



Lessons in solving the problems of the human environment: wastewater management



Rising population with growing water and sanitation needs

Participation in wastewater management



Litter pollution and solid waste management



Agricultural chemical pollution



Traditional Agriculture



TOWARDS THE FUTURE



The specific goal is to sustain the benefits of lake Atitlán for all members of society.



Photo: Go Kimura

Urban Planning and improvement is a must!



It is necessary to promote healthy human relations with the lake water, mainly with the youth.



Thank you

