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RURAL AREAS

**A MISMATCH BETWEEN THE “DESIGN PRINCIPLES” FOR FOREST
MANAGEMENT AS A COMMON-POOL RESSOURCE AND THE
COLLECTIVE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE INHABITANTS OF THE
CHACO FOREST IN ARGENTINA.**

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Objective: This presentation seeks to understand how the formalization of community forest management is articulated with the social, spatial, and productive changes caused by the expansion of agriculture and livestock farming into the forests of the Chaco region of Argentina. Since the 1990s, these forests have faced changes in land use in favor of intensive agriculture and livestock farming, which have led to some of the highest rates of deforestation in the world. For the inhabitants of these forests, this means that they are unable to periodically move their activities to another part of the forest and, consequently, they need to build agreements with their neighbors and reach usage arrangements even in cases of conflict.

Method: The communication will focus on the effects of implementing an international community forest management project (called Native Forests and Community), carried out between 2015 and 2022. Extensive fieldwork has been carried out with interviews, participant observation, and document analysis in various locations in the San José del Boquerón area, in the province of Santiago del Estero, Argentina. The project analyzed seeks to support the consolidation of “forest communities” through the formalization of their territorial and social boundaries and the adoption of governance rules adapting the “design principles” conceptualized by Ostrom (1990). Field observations allowed for an evaluation of the expected and unexpected effects of the project’s implementation.

Conclusions: The communication will prove that the implementation of the project leads to a mismatch between the principles of management oriented towards managing forests as a common resource and the needs of the inhabitants, for whom the challenge is to build community in a context of internal tensions and divergent points of view.

Palavras-chave: community arrangements; land use changes; common property; community forest management; forests.