

A Comparative Advantage for Comparative Analyses: Lessons from a multi-case study





Presentation structure

- Project: International Comparative Analysis of NTFP Cases
- Background and rationale for the project
- Approach to the research
- Main findings
- Lessons on the research approach

The problem with NTFPs

- NTFPs seen as a way to combine development and conservation objectives
- Ambiguous and inconsistent definitions
- Lots of research but no consistent framework
- Questionable underlying assumptions re
 - role in development
 - role in conservation



Case comparison objectives

- Identify trends and patterns in the management, utilisation, and trade of commercial NTFPs
- Synthesize understanding of the role and potential of NTFPs
- Identify conditions that favour NTFP-based development



CIFOR Role

- CIFOR created to be “a centre without walls”
- Major advantages to do comparative research
- Convening power
- Established networks
- Credibility with partners
- Trust of our donors
- Mandate to do IPG research



Criteria for Case Selection

- Forest product has significant demonstrated commercial/trade value (may also have subsistence uses)
- Production, processing and marketing system has been researched and documented (70% of data available)
- Individual or team of experts willing to participate in the comparative analysis
- Collective set represents a wide range of cases

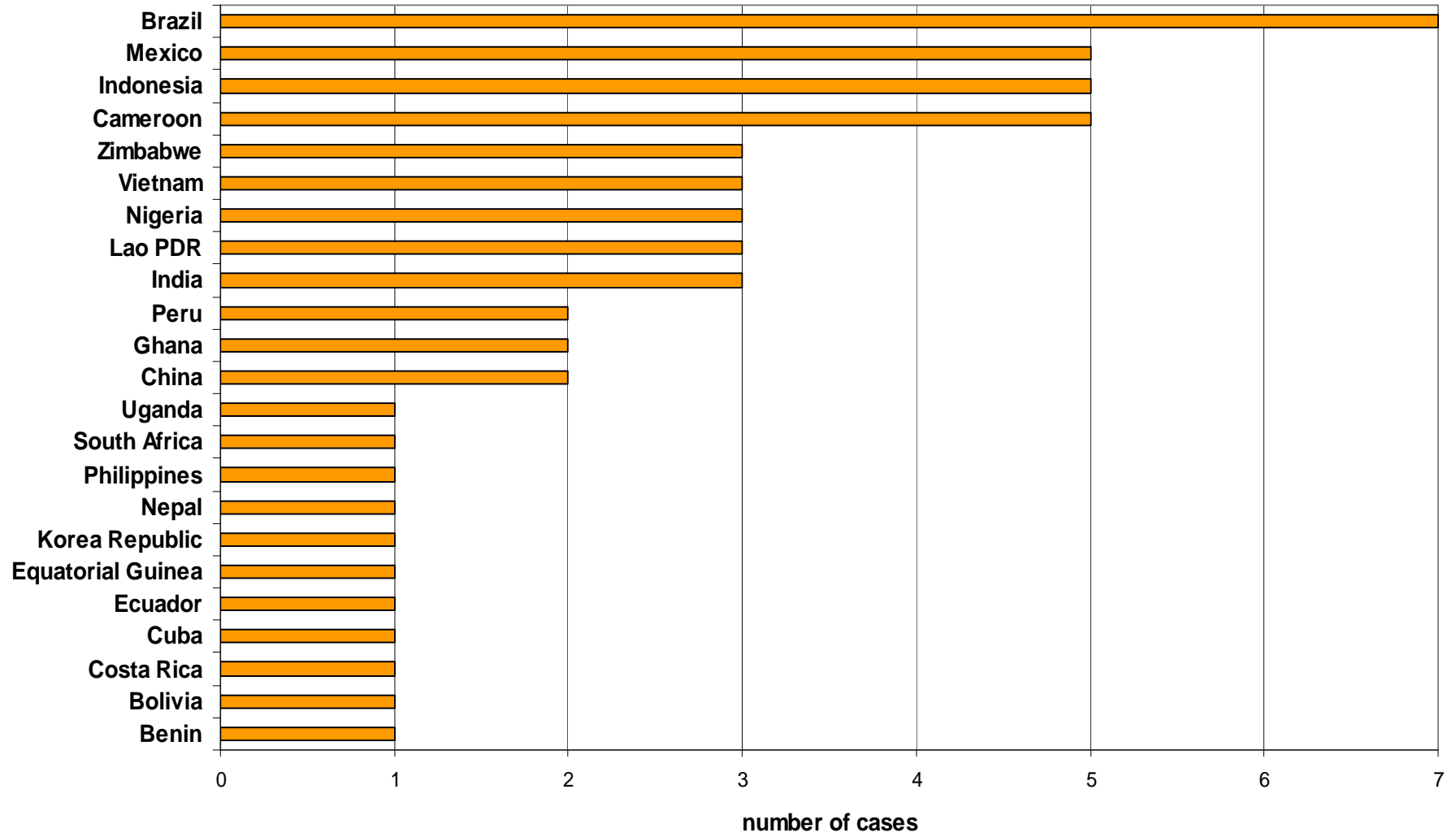


The Data

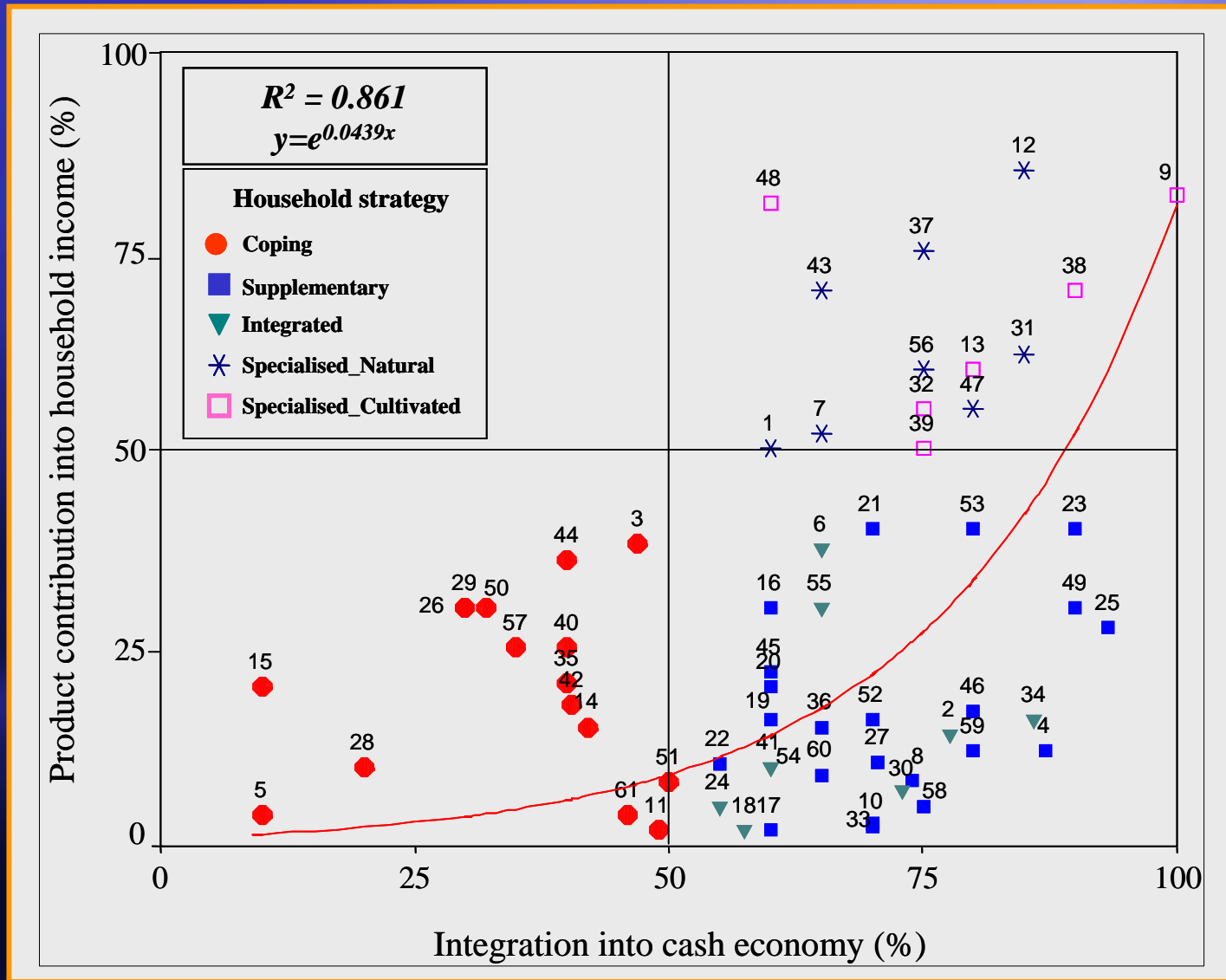
“Case” defined by raw material production area and the relevant trade/processing and marketing chain(s)

- 114 variables (descriptors) of:
 - Geographic setting
 - Biological and physical characteristics of the product
 - Characteristics of the raw material production system
 - SE characteristics of raw material production area
 - Institutional characteristics of raw material producers
 - Policy characteristics of the production system
 - Characteristics of the processing industry
 - Characteristics of the market and marketing system
 - Outside Interventions

DISTRIBUTION OF CASES



Forest products in household economic strategies



Main Lessons

- Product is less important than the social and economic context
- Key context variables are:
 - property rights
 - size and accessibility of markets
 - “opportunity cost” of labour and land
- Higher incomes associated with:
 - intensified production of higher value products
 - off-farm income



Other lessons

- Commercial FP production integrated with other economic activities
- Inherent paradoxes?
 - conditions for commercialization are not met in poor areas
 - process of commercialization may have an anti-poor bias
 - Intensification may have negative biodiversity implications
- Important constraints exist outside the forest product sector
- Realizing development potential also requires investments in other areas



Products

- Methods paper (CIFOR Working Paper)
- 4 Journal articles (overview article with 30 authors)
- Case study books
- “Restitution books”
- Woodcarving analyses and book
- Method adapted by several other studies
- Data set – already well used



Forest Products, Livelihoods and Conservation

Case Studies of Non-Timber Forest Product Systems

VOLUME 1 - ASIA

Editors
Koen Kusters and Brian Belcher



Forest Products, Livelihoods and Conservation

Case Studies of Non-Timber Forest Product Systems

VOLUME 2 - AFRICA

Editors
Terry Sunderland and Ousseynou Ndoye

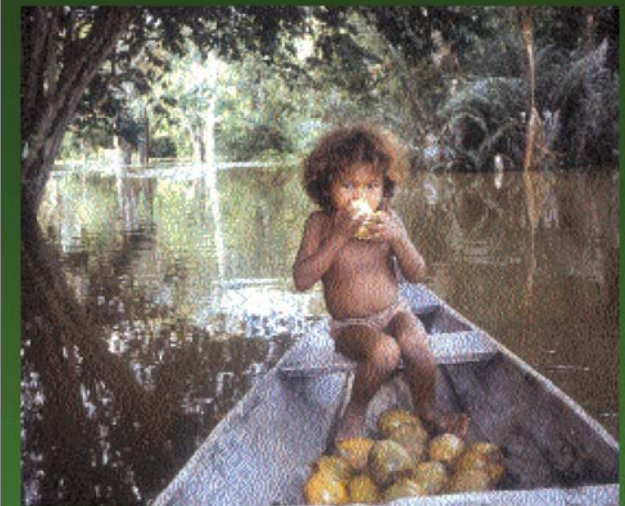


Productos Forestales, Medios de Subsistencia y Conservación

Estudios de Caso sobre Sistemas de Manejo de
Productos Forestales No Maderables

VOLUMEN 3 - AMERICA LATINA

Editores
Miguel Alexiades y Patricia Shanley



PEN Opportunities.....

- Rich data set – landmark study
- Multiple outputs possible from main data set
- Methodology
- Text book?
- Thematic studies
- Limited only by our own energy and enthusiasm.....

