

Dynamics and Integration of Brazil Nut Collectors in the MAP Region (Madre de Dios-Peru, Acre-Brazil and Pando-Bolivia)

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Brazil nut (*Bertholletia excelsa*), a non timber forest product (NTFP) found in the Peruvian, Brazilian and Bolivian Amazon, simultaneously promotes biodiversity conservation and socioeconomic development. In the MAP region (**M**adre de Dios-Peru, **A**cre-Brazil and **P**ando- Bolivia), Brazil nut production is a unique land use activity in that it is based on a system of family labor, leading to a greater distribution of economic benefits among rural producers. In Peru, Brazil nuts are collected in concessions specifically designated for Brazil nut production, whereas in Bolivia, Brazil nuts are collected on communally-titled lands and within concessions primarily designated for timber. Both countries require Brazil nut management plans, although these have been more extensively implemented in Peru. In Madre de Dios, the implementation of management plans has resulted in a 5% increase in income derived from Brazil nut collection, attracting more families to this activity. Brazil nut collectors in Bolivia have recognized that organization into cooperatives has given them more negotiation power with buyers. However, among Peruvian collectors such organization is still weak. The MAP tri-national forum generates opportunities for Brazil nut producers throughout the region to exchange experiences and share techniques. Each year more Brazil nut producers are integrated into the MAP forum, allowing them to identify common problems and pursue attainable solutions. These exchanges also result in strategic alliances, access to specialized markets and evaluation of certification systems. These benefits increase the income producers receive from Brazil nuts and influence relevant public policies that promote conservation of Brazil nut-rich forests.

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