



Good practices for ensuring community participation in aquatic conservation, MPAs and OAEBMs: some Mexican experiences

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Outline

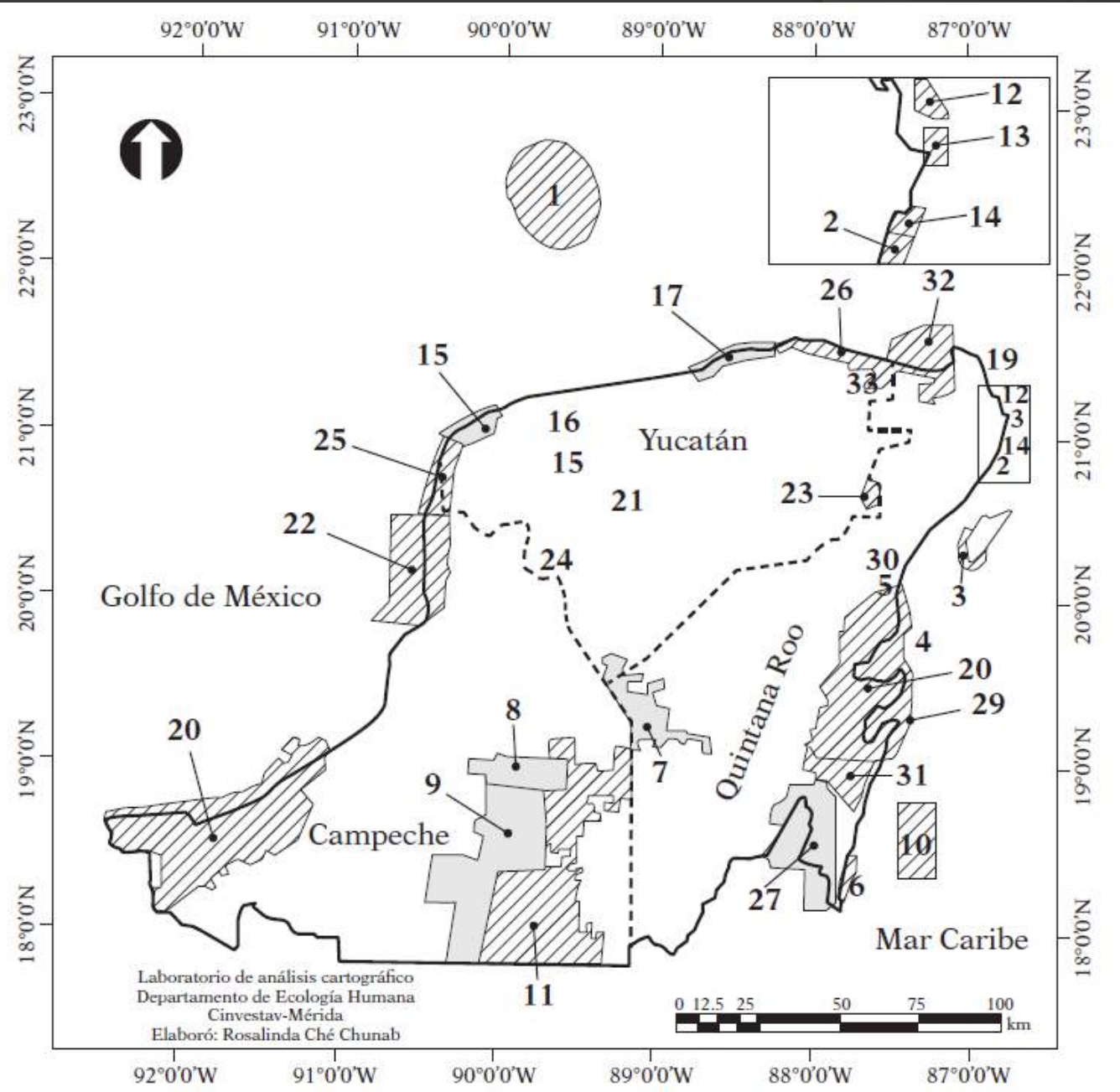
I. Context

II. Mexican Law for ensuring community participation

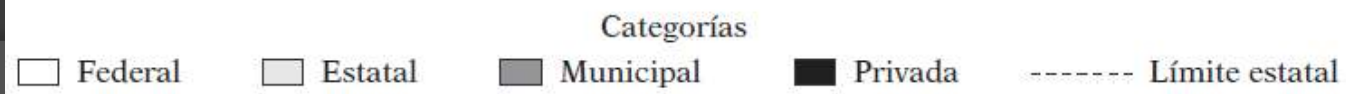
III. Proposals to move forward

I. Context





Source: Fraga (2015)



My own experience as well as from other researchers, one thing is evident: most often people involved in sustainable livelihoods and small-scale fisheries have a **Common goal** but **uncommon vision** (Salas et al. 2015)





Fieldwork meetings, Mahahual and Xcalak Q. Roo, México

- ◉ Knowing examples of good practices for ensuring community participation would need to have **input from previous research on successes (and failures) of MPAs and OAEBMs in reaching their goals** (Jentoft et al. 2010; Chuenpagdee et al. 2013).

- ◉ We do need to undertake research on this; we do need to start moving in that direction

II. Mexican law

Good practices for ensuring community participation in aquatic conservation are **about RIGHTS**, and as in this case they are related to small-scale fisheries and the FAO SSF Guidelines, good practices are related to **Human Rights**, and about **Human rights-holders** (i.e., whenever fish means food security)
(TNI, WFFP, & AK, 2016)

Good practices to those involved in the aforementioned topics in a Mexican context would be to review not only **ALL the international instruments** that Mexico has signed regarding **Human rights** but also those instruments addressing **Indigenous rights**.

- According to the Mexican lawyer García-Contreras (2016) from UQROO:
- Currently, the Mexican Constitution (1917 and its amendments), in its Articles 1st and 2nd, address respectively, **the human rights** and **acknowledges the local norms of indigenous peoples**. So, the human rights and norms' dimensions of communities and indigenous peoples are considered in our law.
- We are talking about Legal pluralism (Bavnick, 2005).

**International
legal framework:
ILO C169, OIT**

**Mexican
Constitution,
Arts. 1st
and 2nd**

**Indigenous
people's norms**

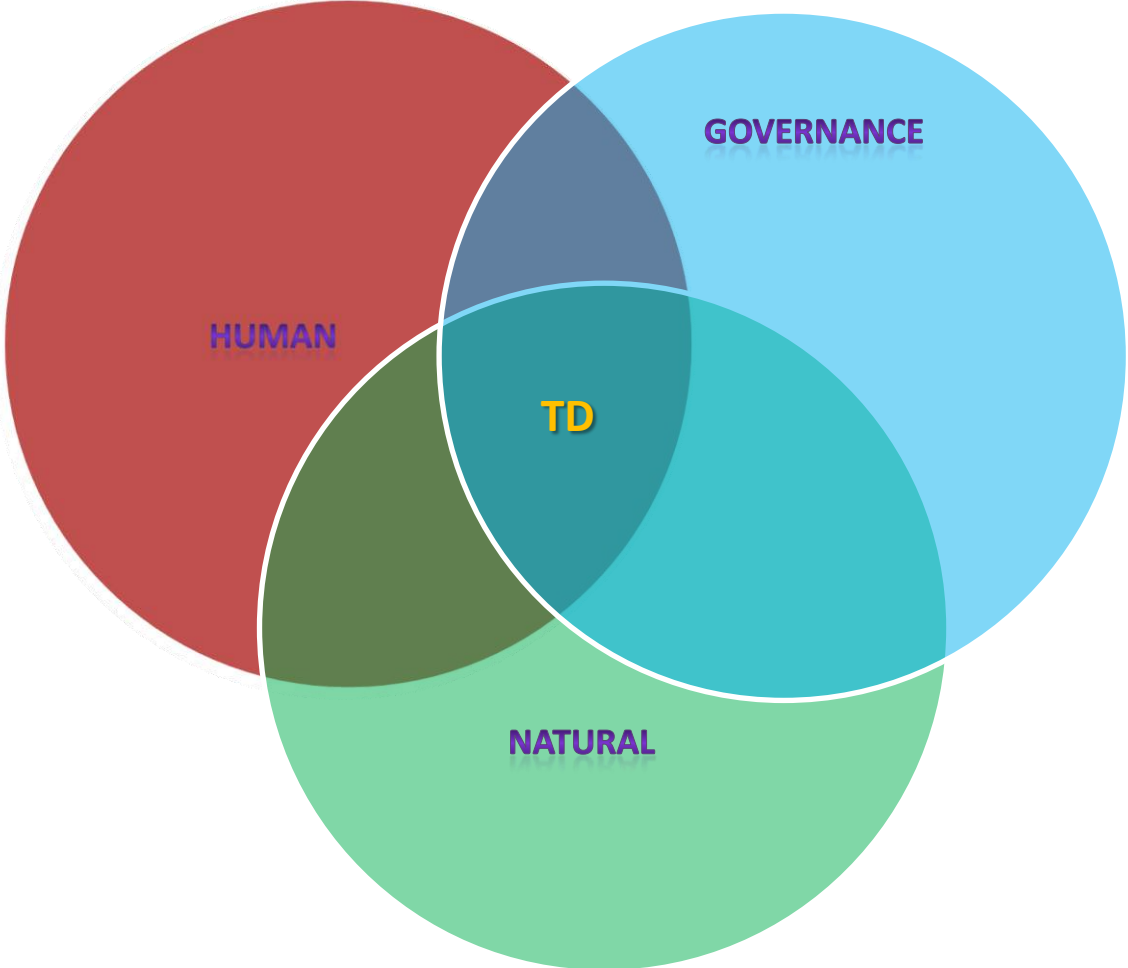
- Do all people involved with MPAs in Mexico know these legal provisions?
- If we don't, then, while seeking community participation:
- *we can't take into account what we don't know.*

III. Moving forward

Other researchers like Charles & Wilson (2009), Sowman et al. (2014), and many others have worked in the consideration of the **Human dimension** into MPAs

Apart from this, scholars and practitioners acknowledge that **different perspectives, world views, values, and types of knowledge** need to be integrated therein.

Collaborative work in aquatic conservation, livelihoods and SSF



Moving forward

- To address several complex themes (i.e., Health, Violence, Climate change) our Federal Government has created Inter-Ministry Commissions (“Comisiones intersecretariales”); that is a good move toward **Transdisciplinary Approaches to problem solving**. However, no Inter-Ministry Commission exists to address the multiple dimensions of conservation.
- The good thing is that **community-based and participatory research approaches**, such as those used at the *Community Conservation Research Network* do have several elements of TD.

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Conclusions

- In Mexico, the human rights and norms' dimensions of communities and indigenous peoples are considered in Arts. 1st and 2nd of the Mexican Constitution 1917; therefore, these legal provisions back up the participation of communities in aquatic conservation including MPAs and other effective area-based measures (OAEBMs).
- Given the multiple dimensions of collaborative work on aquatic conservation, Small Scale Fisheries, MPAs and other effective area-based measures (OAEBMs), people should use interdisciplinary (ID) or Transdisciplinary (TD) approaches to problem solving.

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- See Also:
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THANK YOU!

