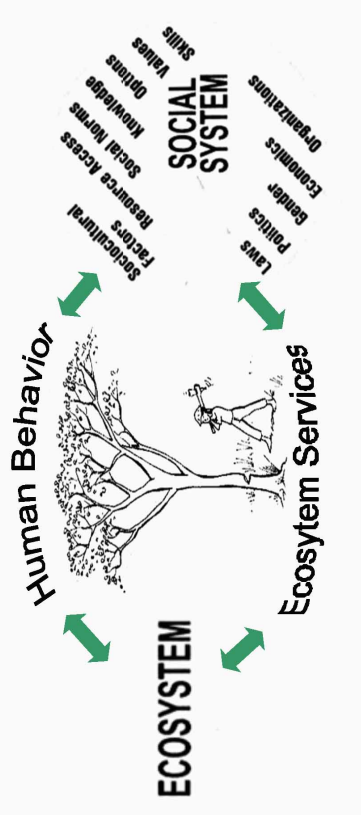


Climate Change and Social Struggle for the Appropriation of Ecosystem Services



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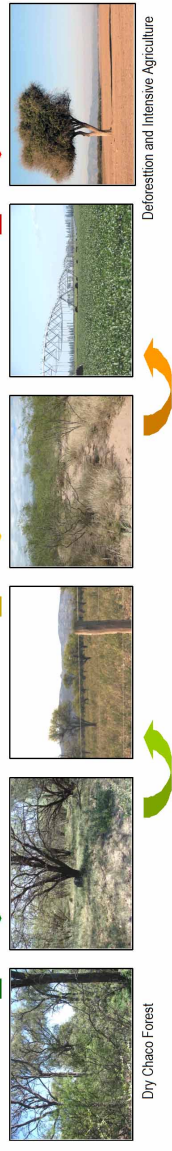


The scenario
 Climate change is the result of a complex network of social and natural interrelations

The study
 By understanding the interplay between ecosystem and social system, this study has focused on how different social actors perceive, value and use ecosystem services in a context of land use change in the Dry Chaco Forest in Argentina.

The findings

As a consequence of climate change and the impact of economic, politic and technological drivers, Argentina has experienced a drastic land-use change, shifting from extensive pastoral systems towards intensive agriculture, where natural vegetation is eliminated or replaced by exotic pastures or cereal seed production.



Different perceptions and values on local ecosystems influence the development of a wide range of strategies to adapt farmers' livelihoods in order to access ecosystem services. Subsistence farmers heavily rely on Chaco Forest, and identify, value and use a wide variety of provisioning (1), regulating (3), supporting (2) and cultural (2) services. In contrast, commercial farmers only identify and value 1 provisioning and 1 regulating service, and seek to replace forest by intensive agriculture. Many conflicts emerged, ranging from single discussions to more complex processes of negotiation, struggles and competition.

Conclusions

- Rapid land-use change is redefining the relationship among key stakeholders, and new power relationships are being developed. This translates into new struggles for the appropriation of ecosystem services and new winners and losers are emerging.
- The use of multi-perspective and interdisciplinary approach contributes to better understand climate change processes and their interdependency with social and environmental systems, as well as providing information to face and manage social struggle through specific policies and regulations.

