Critical analysis of the forest policy development in Argentina and some incidences on the Delta del Paraná transformations

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Abstract: The paper aims to analyze the development of forestry policies in Argentina and trace some reflections about the Delta del Paraná socio-economic transformations due to these policies.

Our revision showed that forestry is one of the agro-industrial subsectors that has been subject of an unusual un-interrupted economic and technological support by the State for more than seventy years. Moreover, the revision of laws and promotion programs enabled us to identify, that some constituent elements of the discursive argumentation as well as of some instruments of application of these policies remain valid from the period of Substitution of Imports (1930-1970). Based on a qualitative analysis of documents and interviews it has been possible to observe that a diagnostic based on a negative trade balance, the need of the industrial and labor development, still orient the definition of forestry expansion instruments in the current public policies such as the Law of Promotion of Cultivated Forests (Law No. 25080 passed in 1999 and extended until 2019).

At the territorial scale, in the last decades a rapid process of socioeconomic transformation in the Paraná Delta was registered, which, according to several studies, correlates among other factors with the expansion of forestry started in the 1970s. An increase of the scale of production and the emergence of new industrial producers with high technology and capital investment correlate with the disappearance of family producers. In this context, the paper also explores the incidence of the public policy frameworks in the Delta del Paraná region.

Actors’ perception on future wood production in a cross-border amazonian region: challenges for a sustainable forestry, French Guiana, Amapá, prospective.

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Abstract: We conducted a study in a cross-border region of Amazonia to analyze the future role of natural forests in producing wood products. French Guiana and the state of Amapá are sharing similar geographical properties. A predominant area of these two territories are dominated by undisturbed tropical forests. In both regions, over 70% of forest areas is under public ownership. Currently the forestry sector in both regions do not have a key role in local economies, with low legal wood production in French Guiana (75 000 m3) as well as in Amapá (around 120 000 m3). Although in Amapá there is a high level of illegality in the sector (85%).

In French Guiana and Amapá, forestry activities might represent an economical opportunity to promote endogenous development. The forest sector, including private and public actors, will face strategic choices to respond to increasing demand in wood supply for the coming decades. Strategic choices, based on strong political decisions, include the volume of wood to be produced locally, type of actors involved (i.e. communities, private companies), type of production (timber vs fuelwood) and origin of wood (plantation vs natural forest).

Based on a prospective approach, we identified various scenarios for each region, to reach the wood supply by 2045. First, we interviewed key actors of the forestry sector to obtain the view from their perspective. Second we selected the key variables to construct the scenarios and validated the resulting scenarios through a discussion with all actors. The scenarios identified in French Guiana had the implementation of tree plantation with local species as alternative to natural forest management, while in Amapá they focused on forest management associated with public policy and social factors. These scenarios are providing a framework of discussions that could help actors to focus on long term and to imagine the likely impact of current policy choices on the socioeconomy and conservation of natural forests.