Identifying Sustainability within Latin American Cultures

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Map of scientific collaborations from 2005 to 2009
Computed by Olivier H. Beauchesne @ Science-Metrix, Inc.
Data from Scopus, ebrary books, trade journals and peer-reviewed journals
Introduction

Awareness perception
  Context
  Barriers and incentives
Case Study: Peru

Linking sustainability to culture
  Prioritization of actions
  Intercultural dialogue
  Unification of development goals
Case Study: Colombia and/or Peru or other countries
Conclusion
PERU


Size: ~500,000 sq mi

Ethnic Groups:

45% Amerindian 37% Mestizo 15% White

Resilient climate (30/32)

Languages

Spanish 84.1%, Quechua 13%
Colombia

Population: 46.7 million (2015)
Size: 441,000 sq mi
Second most megadiverse country in the world
  Most biodiverse country per sq Km
    51,200 plant species (30% endemic)
Ethnic groups: 86% Mestizo and White - 10.6% Black/Mulato - 3.4% Amerindian
  90 indigenous communities
Official language: Spanish (68 dialects recognized)
Questionnaire

Answer:
Agree strongly - Agree - Neither agree nor disagree - Disagree - Disagree strongly

- I am able to make personal sacrifices for the sake of the environment.
- If my job caused environmental problems, I’d rather be unemployed than carry on causing them.
- Having a car is an important part of having a good lifestyle.
- Humans have the right to modify the natural environment to suit their needs.
Video

It's not really a step up from Brooklyn.
Barriers

Extrinsic barriers:

Lack of representation, education, corruption, etc.

Why is there difference?

- Context and adaptation capability
- Framing of an issue creates boundaries around biophysical entities
  - Determines interactions and ordered vision of events

Two framings identified:

- Scientific framing.
- Human-security framing
Barriers

Hierarchy of needs:

Interaction among groups determines how hierarchy of needs is determined.

How do you prioritize between human risk and human preference?

*Prepare the dialogue*

Vulnerability perception

How people relate to current issues
Incentives

What incentives will shift my behavior to?
Incentives

Sustainable and equitable socio-economic development

Fostering environmental governance

Protection of cultural legacy
  - Conservation of sacred sites
  - Enhancement of traditional economic practices

Increased representation

Community empowerment
Incentives: Sustainable and equitable socio-economic development

- Social security
- Cultural equity
- Respect to one's beliefs
- Economic security
- Land stewardship, ecosystem services, energy security
Incentives: Fostering environmental governance

- The environment as a priority in development
- Develop multiple approaches to environmental protection
- Interconnect academia, policy, and culture.
- Empower communities through the education of their resources.
- Strengthen control and progress indicators.
Incentives:
Protection of cultural legacy

- Restoration and preservation of indigenous cultures.
- No need to reinvent the wheel
- Community bonding to find roots
- Unity within the country
Incentives:
Increased representation

Participation in broader discussions
Input of knowledge and experiences
Consideration in governance
Collaboration
Incentives:
Community empowerment

Opportunity for self-education
Independence from western world
Diverse workforce
Peruvian Tourism
Case Study

Sustainable Development - Ecotourism

Barriers:

- Lack of education in the sciences, status quo behind scientists.
- Tourism ahead of environmental needs.
- Corrupt investors and government.

Issue is framed around tourist wealth allowing us to live day to day, but rather:

- Ecosystem services preserved
Tellis, et al. 2008
Activity - Write down priorities

Example: Food, Education

#1 most important

Write down 5-6
Prioritization of actions

Activity - Write down priorities:

Credit Cards
Education
Food
Technology
Family

What happens when change has to occur?
Prioritization of actions

Objective: Bring together scientific and human framing, encapsulate any type of vulnerability perception, and break down possible barriers.

- Holistic protection of biological agents
  - Meeting essential needs
  - Integration of cultural values and goals

- Conservation of human-related assets
  - Cultural practices/elements
  - Economic activities
  - Leisure
Prioritization of actions

● Socio-economic development
  ○ Development of financial strategies to adapt to market conditions.
  ○ Community empowerment and participation
  ○ Research/academic development

● Fostering interconnection among biophysical entities
  ○ Collaboration among communities/institutions
  ○ Maintaining support and cohesion
  ○ Success indicators
Intercultural Dialogue

What is it?

*Equitable exchange and dialogue between civilizations, cultures, and communities, based on mutual comprehension, respect and equal cultural dignity, which is essential for social cohesion, reconciliation, and peace among nations.*
Intercultural Dialogue

Why is it important?

- Generate work spaces that foster collaboration.
- Empower champions from groups involved to lead the process.
- Maintain equitable representation and consideration.
- Formulation of unified developmental goals.
- Prevention of future conflict.

Who’s priorities or views are more significant?

- Unify goals
Intercultural Dialogue

- Set the bases
  - Prepare
  - Prioritize
  - Risk/vulnerability assessment
  - Set an agenda
- Address pre-existing barriers
- Integral community engagement:
  - Equitable representation in dialogue

Culture as a tool to start and establish cohesive workgroups: Cultural activities help interconnect communities and foster relationships.

Maintaining support and tracking progress
Unification of Goals

How can we work for common goals, while building and maintaining a definitive course of action?

Once basic trust is established workgroups are created.

- Addressing essential needs and community cohesion.
  - Collaboration, not guidance
  - Education
  - Interconnection of views
Unification of Goals

Social recognition
By the community for the community

Community champions

Adaptive iteration
Collect and process public preference/need to increase adaptability.
Adapt to changing context to maintain support.
Case Study:
A multidimensional issue that ends with starting a dialogue

- Illegal Mining
- Son’s of the earth
La minería ilegal como fuente de financiación de grupos armados
según informe DAS 2010
impreso por El Espectador
"Minería ilegal, un espantajo"
Departamentos de mayor convergencia entre grupos armados y minería ilegal

Convergencia entre minería ilegal y grupos armados
1. Fuentes del Darién (FARC-EP), Comuna de Puerto Asís
2. Fuentes del Darién (FARC-EP), Comuna de Sabana Grande
3. Fuentes del Darién (FARC-EP), Comuna de Bahía Solano
4. Fuentes del Darién (FARC-EP), Comuna de Serrania del Oro
5. Fuentes del Darién (FARC-EP), Comuna de La Arboleda
6. Fuentes del Darién (FARC-EP), Comuna de El Tumaco
7. Fuentes del Darién (FARC-EP), Comuna de La Guajira
8. Fuentes del Darién (FARC-EP), Comuna de La Guajira
9. Fuentes del Darién (FARC-EP), Comuna de La Guajira
10. Fuentes del Darién (FARC-EP), Comuna de La Guajira

Geoactivismo.org
Illegal mining
Initial strategy

Horizontal collaboration

Identify needs, priorities, and barriers

Work towards meeting essential needs.

Establish trust

Working groups

Community empowerment

Recognition of rights

[Diagram showing interconnections between Water, Energy, and Food]
Multidimensional approach

- Establishment of fair trade programs
  - Social and economical benefits

- Shift of extractionist mining to territorial mining
  - Mining for and by the community
  - Change of a mindset
  - Development of sustainable practices

Alternative activities
- Productive replacement
- Crops, ecotourism, preservation.
Son’s of the earth

Kogis - Arsarios - Arhuacos

Central belief:

*Everything must be kept in order*

- The sierra is the heart of the earth.
  - Their role is to protect it.
- Current conditions are due to the imbalance.
- They are our elder brothers.
Jaguars of Yuruparí
Incas

Culture based on the sun

  Rituals signifying change of seasons

  Seeks to find physical balance, if you take something, then something must be given back.

Barriers

  Religious beliefs (Catholic)

  Current frame: a tourist attraction

Stakeholder engagement with indigenous populations.
So How Does Culture and Sustainability Relate?

- Cultures usually have an inherent link to sustainability.
- Many cultures have fostered the connection between their origins and the land they inhabit.
- It is essential to tap into cultural affiliations and identities to be able to establish dynamic dialogue.
- Many times communities have the same long-term goals but context shift priorities.
- Culture is not destiny but historical situation that unavoidably connects people to their current view of the world.
Conclusion

Sustainability requires collaboration

We must set the table together, rather than have the table set and invite stakeholders.

Begin intercultural dialogue.

Keeping in mind different realities, barriers, and hierarchy of needs.

Unification of goals increases long-term coexistence.
Thank You

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