



Developing a Sustainable Supply Chain of Amazon Nuts (*Bertholletia Excelsa*) for Swiss Consumers: An Interdisciplinary Approach

Background

The Amazon nut is one of the economically most important non-timber forest products in the world. Amazon nut gathering is a crucial activity for rural livelihoods in many parts of the Amazon, and provides an important incentive for forest conservation. However, the future of the Amazon nut is under threat due to deforestation and forest degradation. We will conduct our research on Amazon nut rich areas in the highly biodiverse of Madre de Dios in Peru.



Aim

The aim of the project is to improve the sustainability of the Amazon nut supply chain, by investigating how Amazon nut reproduction is influenced by forest degradation, and what are the socio-economic threats, barriers and opportunities for a more sustainable supply chain



Objectives and Deliverables

To have:

- ✓ A better understanding of the influence of forest degradation on reproduction
- ✓ Clear guidelines for improved regeneration
- ✓ A socio-economic model for a sustainable supply chain with improved livelihoods of gatherers and increased access of healthy nuts for Swiss consumers

Project Duration and Funding

2016 -2018

WFSC Coop Research Program



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Content - Work Plan

Amazon nut reproduction along a forest degradation gradient:

- Pollination and pollinator augmentation
- Nut production
- Genetic diversity and patterns of gene flow and how this relates to seedling performance
- Regeneration

Socio-economic threats and opportunities for a sustainable supply chain:

- Stakeholder analysis
- System modeling
- Decision structure

Approach

Participatory and adaptive management techniques.



People involved

Principal Investigator *Dr. Chris Kettle*

Co-Investigator *Dr. Manuel Guariguata*

Postdoctoral Researcher *Dr. Merel Jansen*

PhD: *Fidel Chiriboga Arroyo*

Others: *Dr Carmenza Robledo Abad Althaus, Juan Andrés Santelices, Julia Quaedvlieg and Anna Borgersen*

Collaboration Partners in Peru



Project Website and Twitter

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