

## Preface

Mario Ardón Mejía, a Honduran sociologist, took me to La Campa for the first time in 1992. I was looking for a research site, and he invited me to accompany him on a previously scheduled trip to visit farmers involved in an integrated pest management project. I saw many interesting and promising sites throughout western Honduras. La Campa was not on the itinerary, but when we got close, he suggested that we stop by to see some friends. The visit was brief, but intriguing. By the time the trip ended, I knew that I had to go back to La Campa. I returned in September 1993 for a year of dissertation fieldwork studying the political ecology of communal forest management. As I returned to La Campa in subsequent years, export coffee production emerged as a major economic activity and became part of my research. Although La Campa has experienced many changes that could have led to deforestation, the people have maintained forest cover and made choices that have helped it to expand. This book explores the complex, often contradictory relationships between the people and their natural resources, and why forest cover endures.

Doña Alejandra and Don Manuel are gone now, but I want to thank them for welcoming me to La Campa. When I first stepped off the bus in the Centro Urbano of La Campa to begin my research, I had no idea where to go. They saw me from their front porch and invited me over. I drank my first cup of coffee with them that afternoon, and they offered me all that anyone could—friendship, kindness, a place to sleep, eat, sit, and simply talk. It is remarkable that they offered these immense gifts freely to all who came to their door.

It is also too late to show this book to Don Claudio García. The last time we talked, he told me that I would not see him again, and I did not wish to believe him. I think he realized how much I valued his friendship and trust. Thank you, Don Claudio, for your willingness to share your recollections of a lifetime of hard work, difficult decisions and unexpected repercussions, and even more for your example of integrity in the face of adversity.

I am deeply grateful to all the people in La Campa for their friendship, support, and patience. I have asked more questions about obvious points than anyone had a right to do, and it must have been perplexing when I didn't immediately grasp things that were apparent to even the youngest child in La Campa. I have tried to do justice to all that they have tried to teach me, although I suspect that I was not the most able student they might have encountered. If I have misunderstood or misrepresented anything, I apologize.

Many people deserve special thanks. I did begin to write a list of everyone who should be acknowledged, but I soon realized that it would be almost as long as this book. I am especially grateful to the people of the Centro, Arenales, San Matías, Monqueta, Jilguarapis, and Cruz Alta for the endless hospitality they have shown me over the past years. Four serving alcaldes as well as a number of former alcaldes and past members of La Campa's *cabildo* have generously shared their knowledge and experiences. They opened the archives for me, an amazing repository of more than 80 years of municipal life, strife, and quotidian detail.

Martha Lizeth Moreno and Jessica Fonseca have helped me collect forest mensuration and household survey data over the course of 8 years. I thank Victor Archaga for introducing them to me. They have made work a pleasure, and their dedication and good humor have greatly eased the challenges of fieldwork. They tracked down, over the course of many days, some of the official sources that I use here. Jessica sacrificed time with her young children in order to assist me, and Martha juggled numerous competing commitments to continue our collaboration. I am privileged to have them as friends and colleagues.

The foresters and office staff whom I met at the Gracias Management Unit of COHDEFOR were unfailingly helpful. They helped me sift through the piles of documents in the archives and patiently answered questions. I admire their courageous assessments of COHDEFOR's checkered past, their pragmatism, and their commitment to improve forest management in Honduras, even if we may differ on some of the details.

The Center for the Study of Institutions, Population, and Environmental Change (CIPEC) has provided an incomparable environment to pursue interdisciplinary collaboration. Emilio Moran gave me the chance to work at CIPEC and has consistently offered valuable advice; I am grateful for both. Elinor Ostrom has been a constant source of inspiration; I cannot thank her enough for her insights, helpful comments, and example of collaborative scholarship. J. C. Randolph has been a guide to me for the world of forestry. His collaboration has allowed me to address complex questions about the interrelationships between people and forests, and I could not have hoped for a better colleague. Darla Munroe, Harini Nagendra, and Jane Southworth have been incredible collaborators, and I have learned much from them about remote sensing, GIS, and modeling. I wish them all the best as life disperses us to different corners of the world. Sean Sweeney helped create the figures for this book, and patiently worked through successive refinements. Joanna Broderick helped edit the manuscript, and transformed it into a consistently formatted and presentable work. The book is better for her skilled attention to detail.

The faculty and staff of the Department of Anthropology at Indiana University have given me an outstanding professional home. I am grateful to be a part of such a congenial group of colleagues, and especially appreciate the thoughtful inputs from Eduardo Brondízio, Anya Royce, and Rick Wilk during the process of writing this book.

The Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis at Indiana University has exposed me to new perspectives on institutional analysis and given me the opportunity to participate in vigorous intellectual debate. I look forward to many more exciting

conversations in the Workshop and collaborations with its multidisciplinary community of scholars.

I benefitted greatly from the graduate training that I received at the University of Arizona. When I was trying to decide where to go for graduate school, I called Bob Netting's office (never expecting that he would pick up the phone) and ended up talking with him for almost an hour about shared interests. I found in him the mentor I had been seeking, and learned more than I can say from his insights, challenging questions, and provocative comments. I miss his intellectual fire and incomparable humanity. Tom Sheridan has been a touchstone for me over a number of years, and he has shown me the potential of anthropological skills to make a contribution to real-world challenges. Ana Alonso has been a gracious advisor and friend; I especially appreciate her example of imbuing teaching and scholarship with concern for building a more just world. I am grateful to all three for their guidance, and hope to follow their examples.

The research encompassed in this book received generous support from a number of sources. A National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Program Grant (SBR-9307681) and a University of Arizona Graduate Research Grant funded my first two periods of fieldwork. NSF grant SBR-95219218 to CIPEC, established by founding Co-Directors Emilio Moran and Elinor Ostrom, provided funding for the remote-sensing analysis, forest mensuration research, and ground truthing. An Indiana University Summer Faculty Fellowship helped to support a summer of fieldwork, and a College of Arts and Humanities Institute Research Fellowship granted me a teaching leave that opened time for me to work on this book. Through the Inter-American Institute (IAI) Small Grant Program and an IAI Collaborative Research Network Program Grant, I have been able to develop my research on the impacts of coffee production on the people and forests of Honduras. It has been a pleasure to work collaboratively with Edwin Castellanos and Hallie Eakin on both IAI grants.

My mom read every draft of this book, and let me know when my writing became muddled in scholarly detail. My dad always had an encouraging word. I am unable to find the words to express my gratitude for a lifetime of unwavering love and support.

Percy and Alec, thank you for your steadfast love and patience.

Bloomington, IN

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