LATAM Bamboo supply chains

Ecologically regenerative industry?

Continuation of the Global North > South Extractive history

or

REGENERATION FIELD INSTITUTE





Regeneration Field Institute - director Los Arboleros Farm - owner **Regenerative Industries Think Tank** - coordinator Resource Fiber - (former) director of international business development 2020-2021 regenerationfieldinstitute.com loshunintl@gmail.com

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Demand increase after earthquake

- Disaster relief
- Eco-touristic re-development
- Farmers needing income began harvesting more bamboo
- Ecuadorian government fast-tracks bamboo building code approval







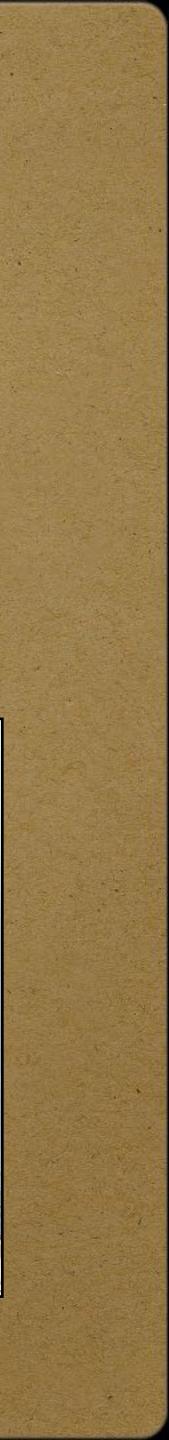












Well managed Dendrocalimus asper







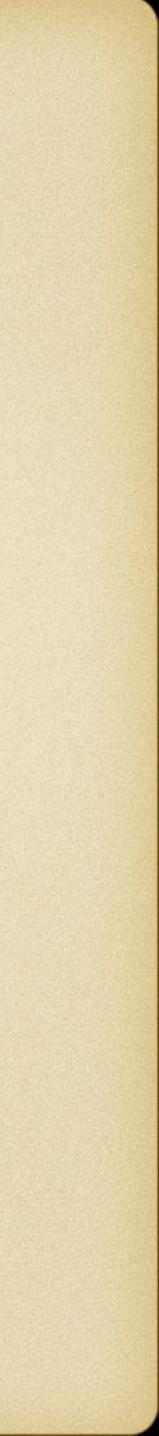




Measuring impact on ecosystems and communities

- Great deal of academic and commercial research goes into developing engineered bamboo products for construction
- Comparatively little effort is made to research how to optimize relationships with supply communities and bamboo ecosystems
- Due to this deficit and anticipating a growth in the bamboo industry of the Americas, in 2020, we created the Regenerative Industries Think Tank group: a collaborative interdisciplinary research group looking at case studies here in Ecuador
- We are currently implementing bamboo remote sensing inventories, socioeconomic surveys, bird, primate, and plant biodiversity surveys. Much more attention on the subject is required however











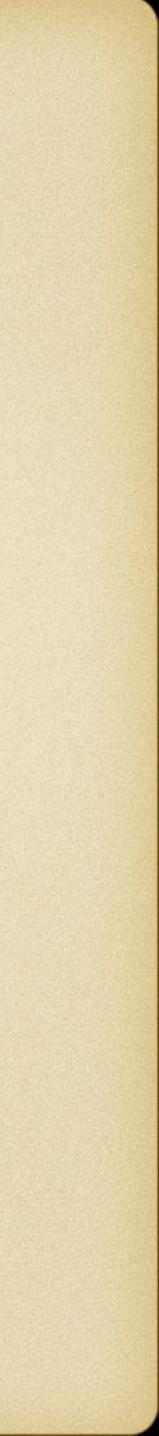


Balsa industry example

- Core material for windmill turbine industry
- 7 years ago, balsa not perceived as having value
- Ecuador produces 95% + world's balsa
- High demand and severely fluctuating prices led to clearcutting of naturally occurring balsa
- International buyers work through intermediaries and don't interact directly with farmers
- During upswings of price, large quantities have been planted: on formerly forested land clearcut for the new crop, and also in degraded pasture
- Will bamboo demand create a similar dynamic? Perhaps a cautionary tale...







Future demand for bamboo



Using the whole culm









Crédito Productivo Agropecuario

El bambú tiene relación con la supervivencia de más de 500.000 productores en Ecuador. BanEcuador y el Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería juntan esfuerzos para promover el desarrollo de este sector.

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Panels being manufactured in Ecuador



- The jury is still out: Will engineered bamboo products take off in the market place? Will companies invest in sustainable supply chains, prioritizing social and environmental justice?
- We can all play a role as scientists, engineers, builders, investors, environmental advocates, and consumers
- How can we support this industry to live up to its tremendous regenerative potential !?













