

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

Paulo Massoca

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“Reducing Tropical Deforestation
through Local Collective Action in the
Brazilian Amazon”

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



Policies inducing positive outcomes in one place may fail drastically when local settings differ, particularly when collaboration among diverse and competing social groups is required to overcome collective problems. Anti-deforestation policies for the Brazilian Amazon are traditionally implemented at the level of the biome, disregarding context-specific realities and the role of local actors and institutions mediating land-use decisions. My dissertation project approaches the deforestation blacklist, an innovative instrument centering monitoring and sanctioning initiatives at the county level. Previous studies confirm the positive effect of this instrument, highlighting the role of bottom-up, collective arrangements among local stakeholders towards controlling deforestation rates to remove their counties from the blacklist. Despite that, only 11 out of 52 counties were removed from the blacklist to date. I will draw on case studies in a sample of counties to examine how the interplay among diverse social groups has driven either the success or failure of blacklisted counties to reduce deforestation rates and exit the blacklist.



Paulo Massoca is currently a PhD candidate in Environmental Science in the School of Public & Environmental Affairs at IU. His research focuses on land change science, particularly on coupled human-environment systems in the Brazilian Amazon where he has explored the interplay between diverse social agents and the dynamics of deforestation and second-growth forests. Paulo's doctoral project aims to investigate how multi-stakeholder initiatives at the county level mediate anti-deforestation policies in the Amazon ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public (see our website for papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855-3151).