



can paying 4 global ecosystem
services reduce poverty?

les paiements pour les services écosystémiques globaux peuvent-ils
réduire la pauvreté?

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Conserving global benefits at local cost? Lessons from biodiversity offsets and a REDD+ pilot project in Madagascar

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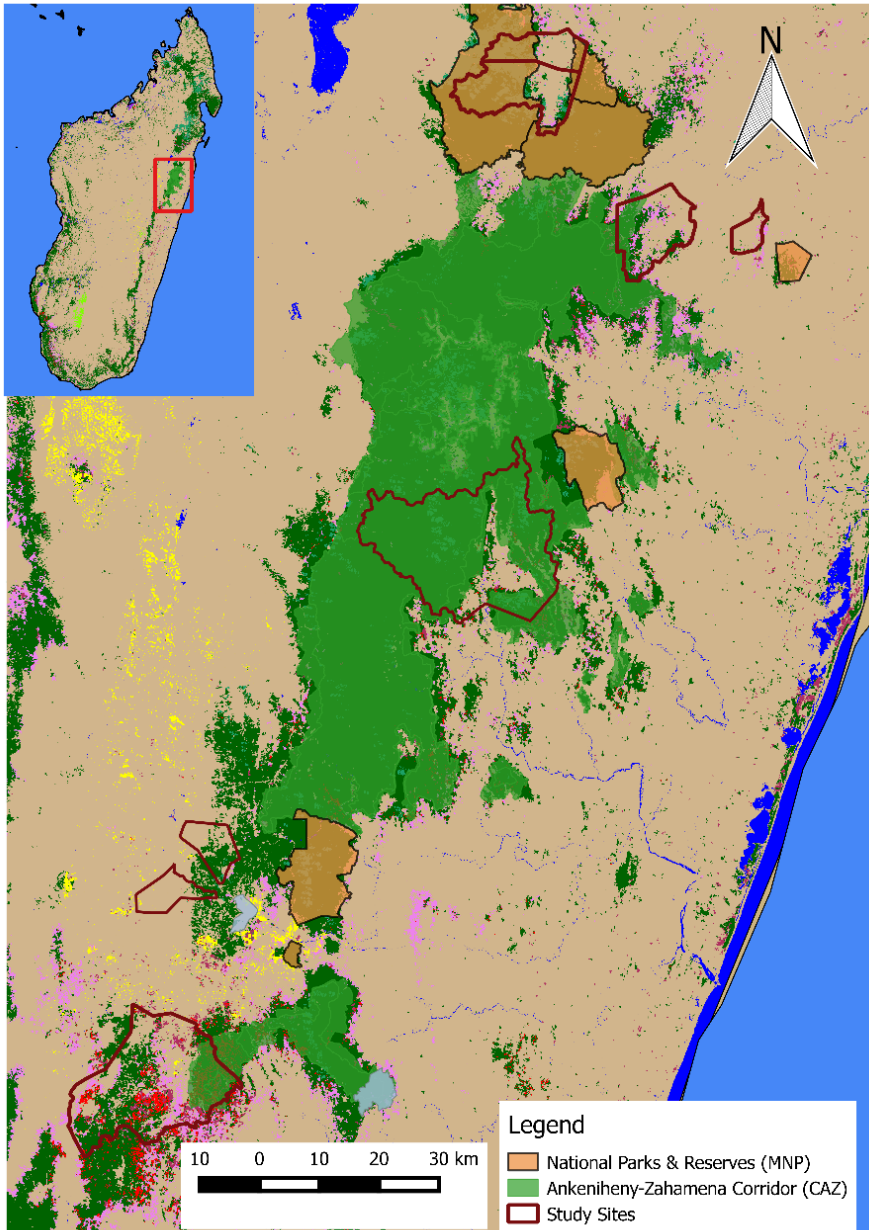
Data from two projects

p4ges project

- Explores how payments for global ecosystem services (like REDD+) can benefit the poor
- 4 sites around the Corridor Ankeniheny Zahamena (CAZ) protected area

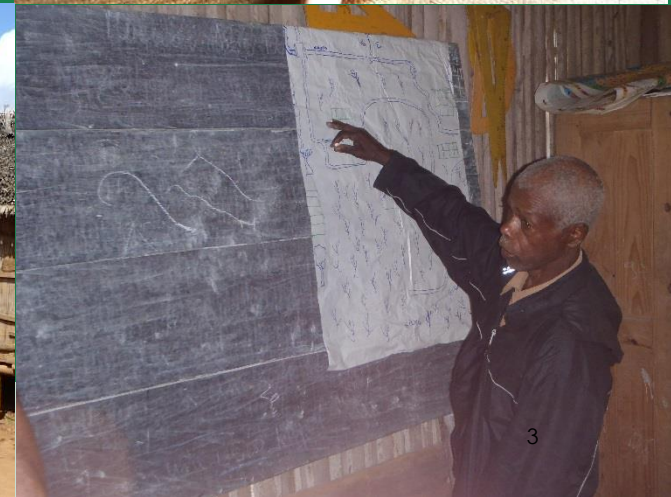
Biodiversity offset project

- Explores locally perceived impacts of two biodiversity offsets established by Ambatovy nickel mine
- 2 sites, one adjacent to mine footprint and one 70km away



Methods

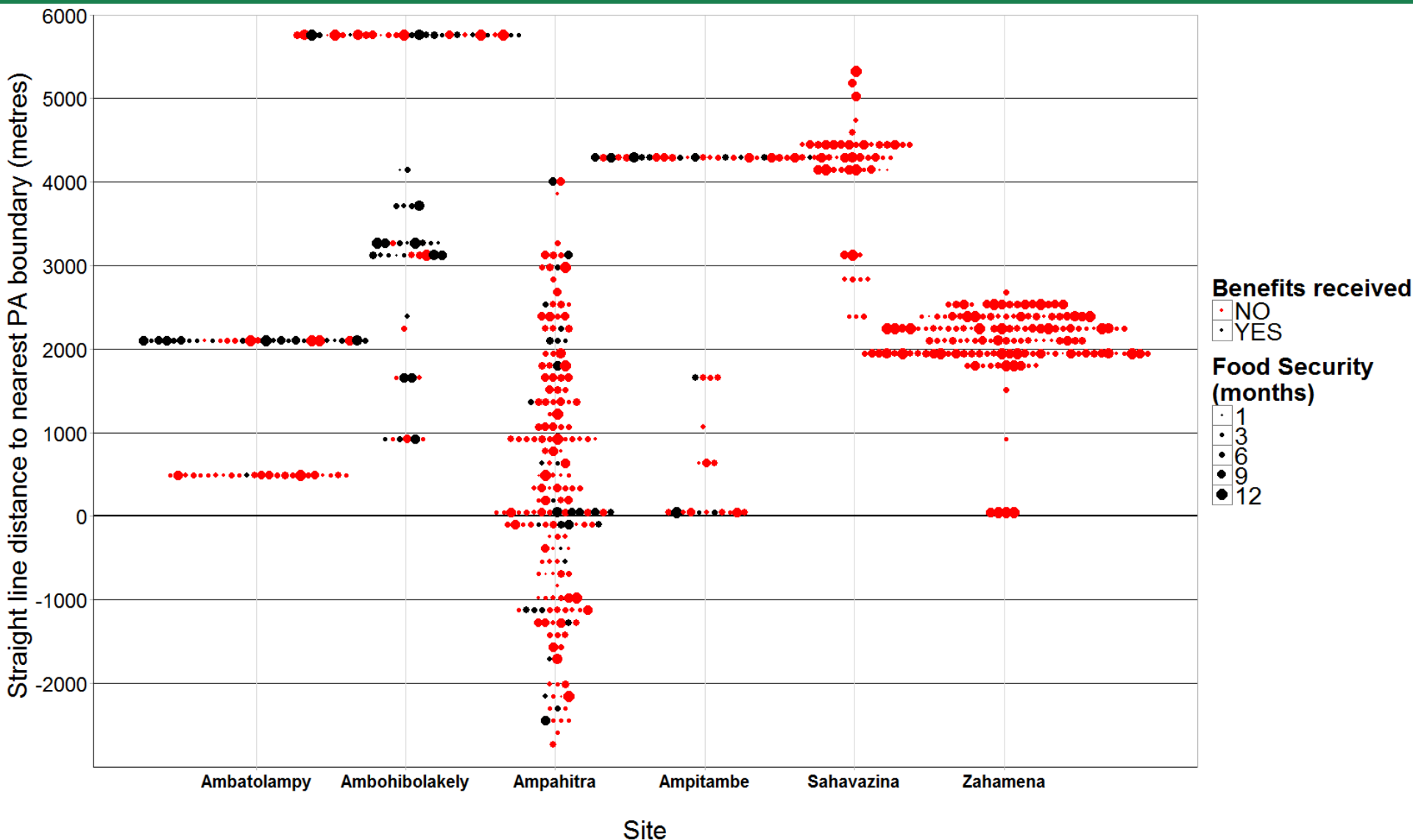
- Focus group discussions
 - p4ges: 39 in 5 villages
 - BO project: 17 in 4 villages
- Household surveys
 - p4ges: 499 hh in 4 sites (random sample)
 - BO project: 170 hh in 3 villages (stratified random sample)
- Key informant interviews
 - p4ges: 17 at 4 sites
 - BO project: 30 in 4 sites



Distribution: Global benefits



Distribution: Who receives 'tangible' benefits locally?

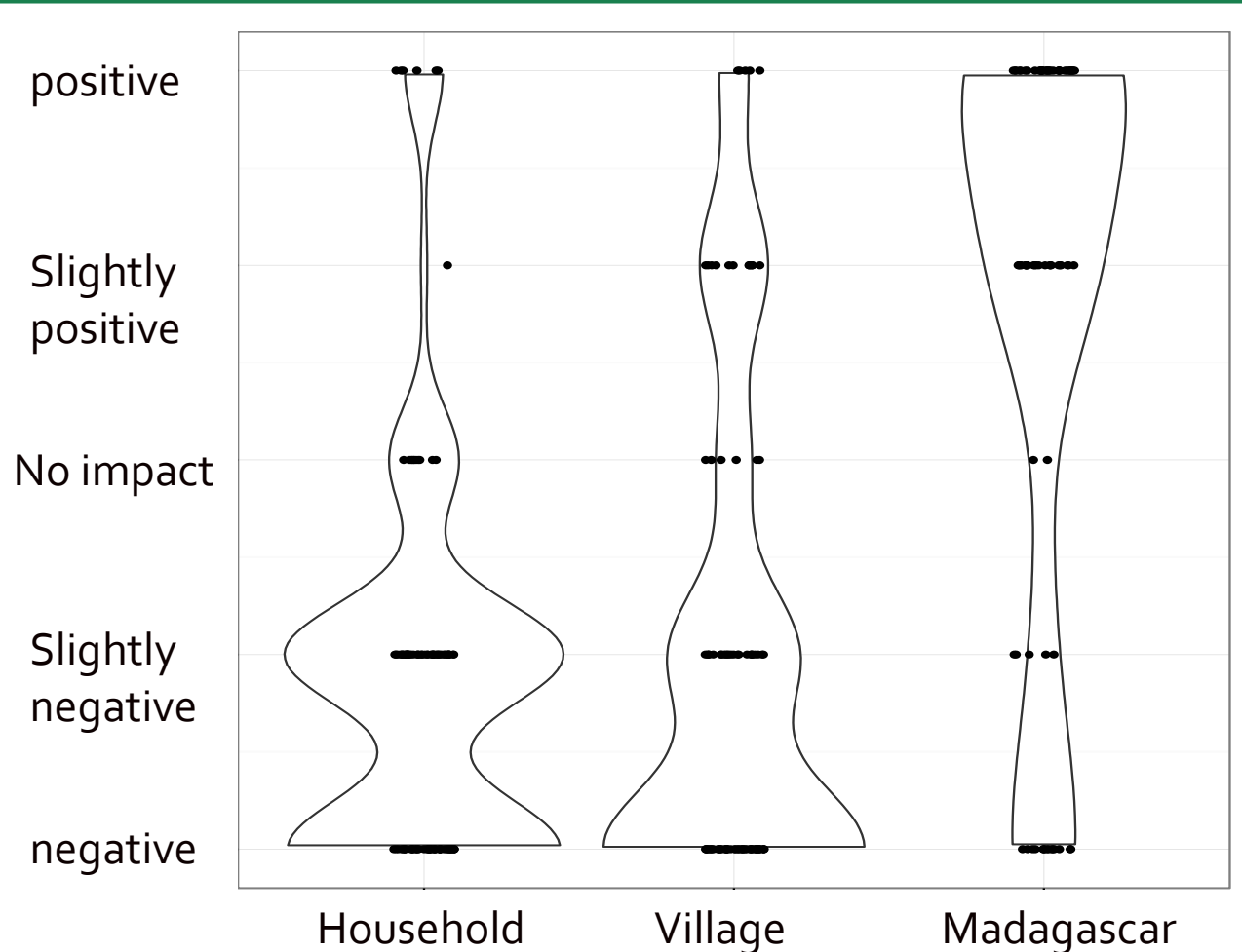


"We've heard too much about conservation, but we got no benefits so far."

Distribution: What are the local costs?

- Ancestral fallows (and graves) are inside the park boundaries
- Insufficient land leading to social conflict and reduction of fallow periods (exhausted soils)
- Loss of communal cattle grazing in forests
- Shift from wood to bamboo construction
- Great confusion about what is allowed on land outside the boundaries
- Fear of enforcement
- Park managers do not respect traditional institutions (tangalaménas) who try to make local voices heard
- Unequal impact of costs – recent migrants are hit hardest by reduced access to forest land for clearing as resident 'zanatany' have better access to any paddy fields and to traditional decision-making structures

How do local people perceive the spatial distribution of the impacts of biodiversity offsets?



Source: Biodiversity offset project hh survey, n=170

Relative timing of costs and benefits at local level

“You see, this is the problem with Ambatovy: they forbid first our livelihood income and only give an alternative once we are already suffering.”

Start of project

Development activities



Conservation restrictions



Procedure: Who participated in demarcating the park boundary?

- Zahamena Park – Established in 1992 but on-the-ground boundaries only demarcated in 2000:
 - Strong agreement across several focus groups and key informants that boundaries were set without consulting the villagers.
 - Villagers felt that they were ‘bluffed’ during the boundary setting process, with signatures on the attendance list of a community information meeting used as evidence that they agreed to the process.

“Villagers are excluded from the discussions and decision making, like during the boundary setting. If human beings are more important than animals, their condition should be improved by the State.”

Recognition: Who is recognised as being affected by the protected area?

Several villages are inside the park

- Recognised by development actors, like the commune and CISCO (primary schools)
- Not recognised by environmental actors like park management
 - Not formally eligible for compensation initiatives
 - Not properly included in any discussions about park management



Conclusion

- Protected areas can lead to numerous local injustices – relating to distribution, procedure and recognition.
- These local injustices must be understood within the larger-scale context of decision-making about ecosystem management initiatives that are considered to be of national and global benefit.
- An environmental justice lens enables a holistic appreciation of the implications of ecosystem management for people at local-to-global scales and across generations.
- **Environmental justice should be a guiding principle** for conservation initiatives.