

BALANCING CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL EL
SALVADOR: RESULTS FROM TWO CASE STUDIES

by

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ABSTRACT

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Efforts to balance environmental protection and human development in rural areas of poor countries face a variety of challenges that are poorly understood and frequently underestimated. Consequently, programs designed to achieve gains along both dimensions often fail to live up to expectations.

A lack of in-depth, independent analyses of past experiences hampers theorists and practitioners in work to improve outcomes. This study contributes to filling this gap by reporting results from two case studies of projects with both conservation and development objectives implemented in rural El Salvador. During fieldwork in 1999 and 2000, I examined project histories through interviews, observation, and a review of documents. In this thesis, I present findings, discuss their implications, and offer tentative general recommendations for improving standards of best practice in the field.

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