

COLLOQUIUM PRESENTATION

Wednesday, November 11, 2009
Place: Workshop Tocqueville Room
513 North Park Avenue
Time: 12:00-1:30 p.m.

**ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMICAL VALUATION OF ALLSPICE
(*PIMENTA DIOICA*) PRODUCTION AS A RESTORATION STRATEGY
PROPOSED FOR THE RECOVERING OF "LOS TUXTLAS"
LIVESTOCK PASTURES (VERACRUZ, MÉXICO)**

Presented by **Luz Alette Hernández**, Political Science PhD Student, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), and Visiting Scholar, Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, Indiana University Bloomington

Abstract: Laguna Escondida is an "ejido" that is part of the natural protected area "Reserva de Biosfera Los Tuxtlas." Currently, 71% of the surface of Laguna Escondida is occupied by livestock, which strongly influences the loss of the "ejido" forest. The cultural acceptance of this productive activity is a result of several social factors related to the lack of alternative opportunities and the pressure for better incomes from the local population. Restoration initiatives for the region should incorporate these socio-economic demands and the stakeholders' participation in the proposal's design. As an alternative, in this study a restoration strategy was analyzed on the basis of the establishment of live fences with commercial use - using *Pimenta dioica* (L.) Merr. - in the cattle ranch area. The viability of the proposal was evaluated on the basis of the performance of *P. dioica* on: (1) the establishment of a demonstrative plot; (2) the growth and yield projection for the species; (3) the analysis of the individuals' morphological variation according to their growing site; (4) the analysis of the environmental modifications as consequence of the presence of *P. dioica* in the cattle area; and (5) the analysis of the commercial value of the proposal. As a result, it was observed that: (1) survivorship of *P. dioica* was successful (58%) on pasture land conditions; (2) in the pasture area, trees grew three times faster than trees developing inside the forest; (3) *P. dioica* trees improve the environmental conditions of the pasture; and (4) its establishment in live fences around the cattle area is profitable and economically competitive with the current "ejido" livestock activity. These results allowed us to conclude that *P. dioica* has a high biological potential for the restoration initiatives; and its use as part of the live fences system is a commercial valuable alternative for the restoration of the pasture areas of Laguna Escondida.

BIO: Luz Alette Hernandez is currently a Political Science PhD student at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). She received her Master of Science in Biology, with specialization in Restoration Ecology from the Ecology Institute of UNAM. She did her undergraduate studies in Biology at the National University of Colombia. She has nine years of professional experience in the collective management of forest resources, through the planning, management, coordination, and implementation of projects in the areas of sustainable rural development, community organization, and civic participation. Her PhD research is focused on the evaluation of the impact of the Mexican governmental program for the development of the community forestry in the quality of life of beneficiaries. Her main objective at the Workshop will be to extend the analytical and methodological framework for her research proposal.

If you have a disability or need assistance, arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs.

You are welcome to bring your lunch. Coffee is provided free of charge and soft drinks are available. Copies of Workshop colloquia papers can be found on our website at <http://www.indiana.edu/~workshop/colloquia/colloquiumseries/index.php>. If you have a question regarding assistance or our Colloquium Series, please contact Gayle Higgins (812-855-0441, ghiggins@indiana.edu). We hope you will be able to join us!



Workshop in
Political Theory and
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