

Socioeconomic complexity of the buriti value chain in Maranhão, Brazil

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Buriti palm (*Maurita flexuosa*)
stakeholders in Barreirinhas
Maranhão, Brazil

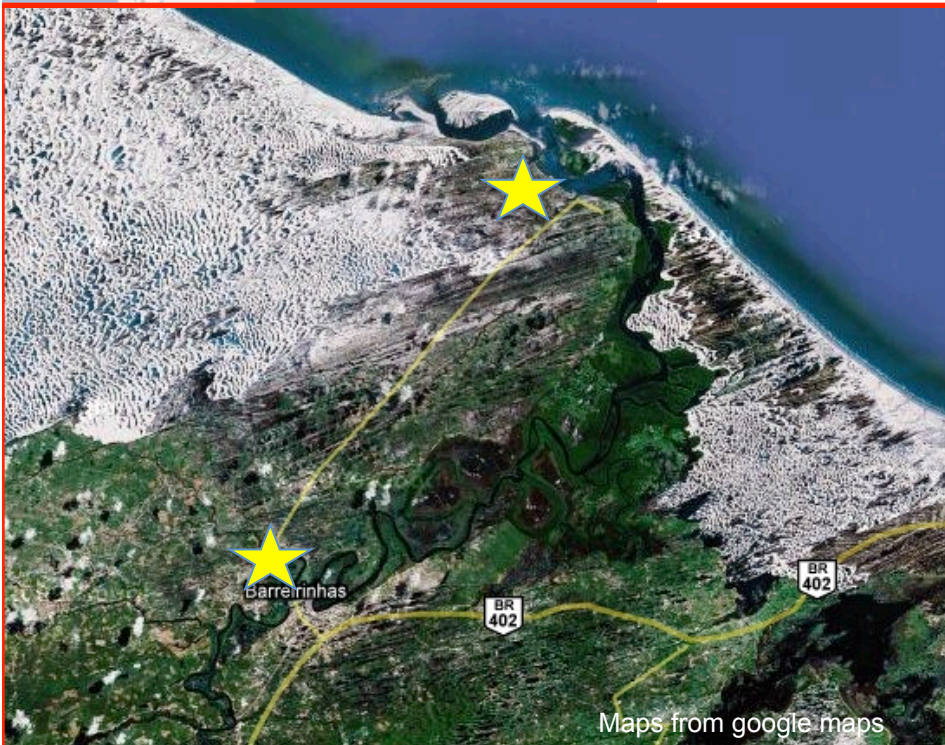


Photo credits: A. Virapongse and field assistants

Utilization of buriti derivatives




Buriti trees and leaf extraction



After mature leaf harvest



Overharvest of mature and young leaves



What socio-economic factors impact the role that actors take in a value chain of buriti leaf derivatives?

Methods

Data collection

- Fieldwork: 18 weeks in 2009-2011
- Sampling: purposeful, snowball, triangulation
- Semi-structured interviews (n=97)

Owner (n=27) owns land with burití trees

Extractor (n=12) regularly extracts young or mature buriti leaf from trees

Artisan (n=52) makes burití fiber handicrafts

Vendor (n=19) purchases handicrafts from artisans to re-sell/transfer



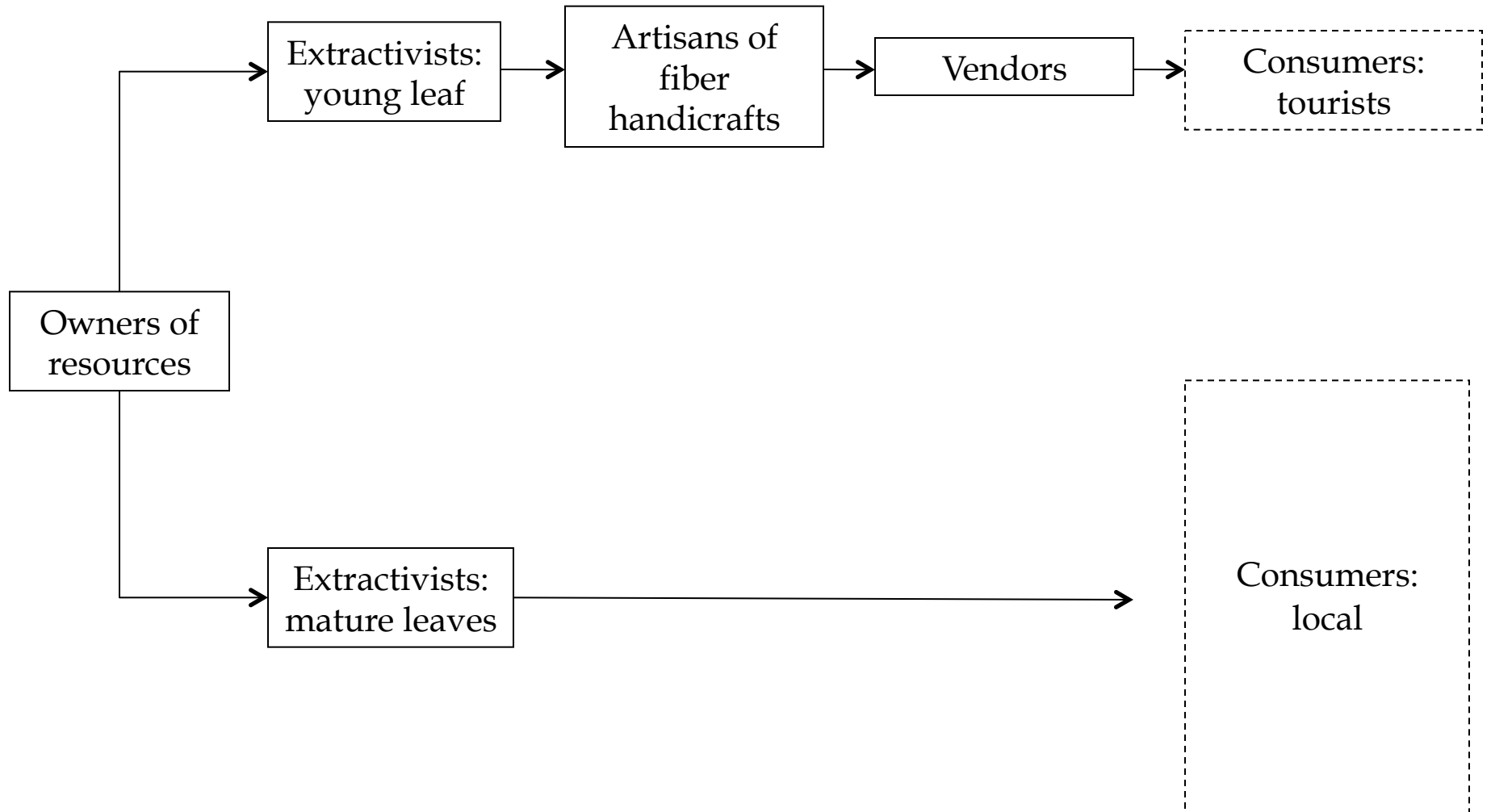
Data analysis

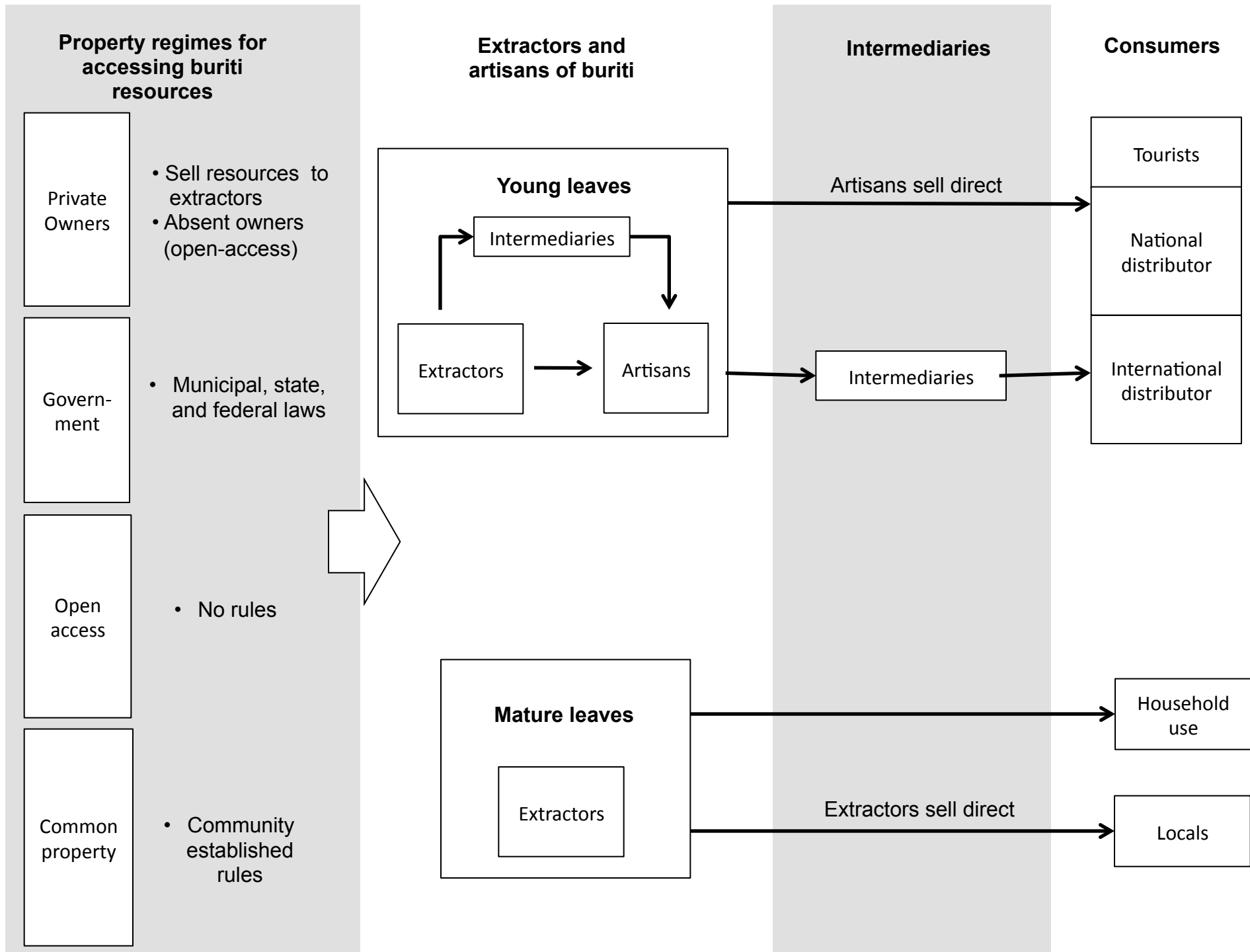
- Qualitative analysis: grouping data, cross-checking, identifying trends
- Descriptive statistics and multivariate analysis
- Value chain analysis

Results

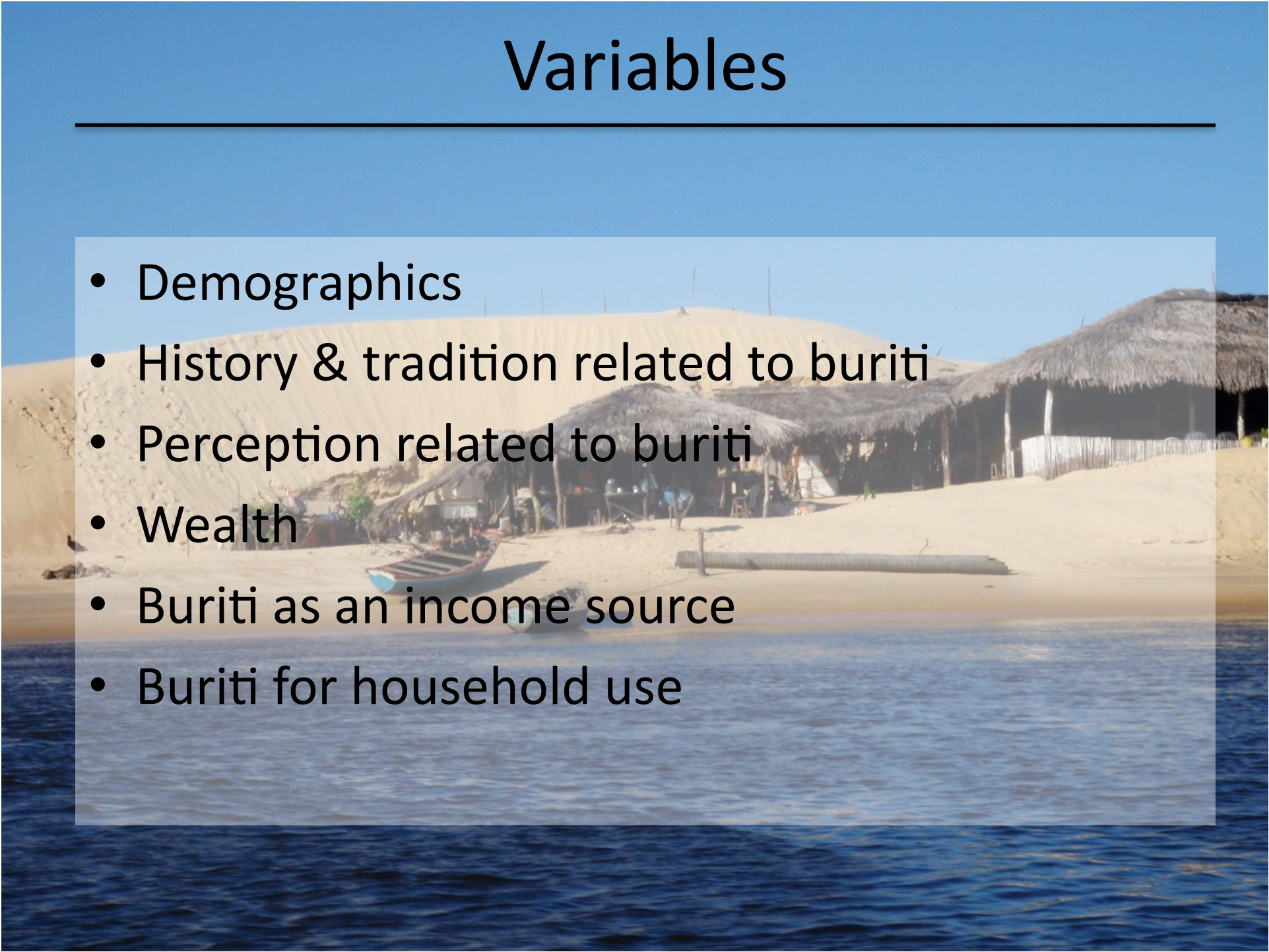


Buriti value chain





Variables

- Demographics
 - History & tradition related to buriti
 - Perception related to buriti
 - Wealth
 - Buriti as an income source
 - Buriti for household use
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- A photograph of a coastal village with thatched huts and a boat on a sandy beach next to the ocean. The scene is set against a clear blue sky and a large sand dune in the background. The water in the foreground is a deep blue, and the sand is a light tan color. The huts are built with natural materials, and a small boat is visible on the beach.



Owners

Highest among owners

- Collection of young leaves harmful ($p < 0.05$). Higher among owners who don't exploit buriti resources.
- Planting buriti
- Subsistence-based: home gardens ($p < 0.05$) & agricultural lands ($p < 0.001$)

Lowest among owners

- Main income buriti ($p < 0.001$)



Extractors

Highest among extractors

- At least one parent born in community
- At least one parent spent >10 years living close to buriti
- Believes buriti trees were threatened

Lowest among extractors

- Learned trade from parent
- Consistent income ($p < 0.05$)

Artisans



- Did not believe that collection of young leaves was harmful ($p < 0.05$)
- Did not have agricultural field ($p < 0.05$)
- Low wealth index ($p < 0.005$)
- High frequency of buriti as main income ($p < 0.01$)

Highest when corrected by region

- Household members participating in buriti activities
- Household use of buriti

Lowest when corrected by region

- Has planted a buriti tree

Vendors



Highest among vendors

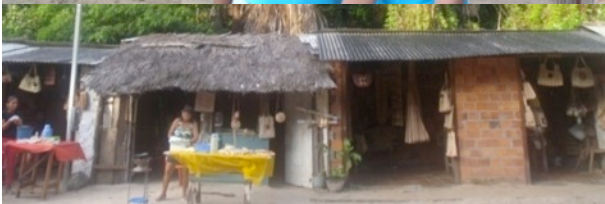
- Head of household as single person ($p < 0.01$)
- Wealth ($p < 0.05$)
- Education
- Household labor

Lowest among vendors

- Household use of buriti: Lowest for vendors, even though corrected by region ($p < 0.05$)
- >10 years spent living close to buriti: also when corrected by region.

Surprises

- Planting buriti (highest among owners)
- Buriti trees threatened (highest among extractors): Corrected by region, vendors were highest



Conclusions



Roles in the value chain were distinguishable based on socio-economic differences.

Trends explained by the market value chain - natural resource versus market.

NTFP commercialization should be considered by market chain roles - social heterogeneity - in order to understand different perspectives and changes in resources, and to effectively design and implement resource management strategies.



Thank you!

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