

## Land Use Policy

### Release

**February, 2023** - Women's roles in natural resource management and governance are a critical theme in land use and forest research and policy. However, women's empowerment in collaborative timber management is understudied and rarely achieved on the ground. While normative values can negatively reinforce gender roles in community forestry, a new article published in [Land Use Policy](#) expands on [Kabeer's](#) conceptualization of women's empowerment focused on resources, agency and achievements, detailing how 'power through', a new concept of women's empowerment introduced by [Galiè and Farnworth](#), operates and can lead to more permanent levels of women's empowerment.

[Dr. Ana Luiza Violato Espada](#) and [Dr. Karen A. Kainer](#) present a study of women's participation in seven community-based timber projects within three Brazilian Amazonian extractive reserves. The study is part of Dr. Espada's dissertation work titled "Collaborative Community Timber Management: A Comparative Analysis of Actors' Roles and Perceptions, Power Dynamics, and Women's Empowerment in the Brazilian Amazon" available in this [LINK](#).

Carried out over 15 months, the first author interviewed 52 respondents, conducted participant observation, and led a focus group discussion that included community concept drawing activities.



In-depth interviews were carried out during the dissertation project, featuring women working in the collaborative timber management projects.

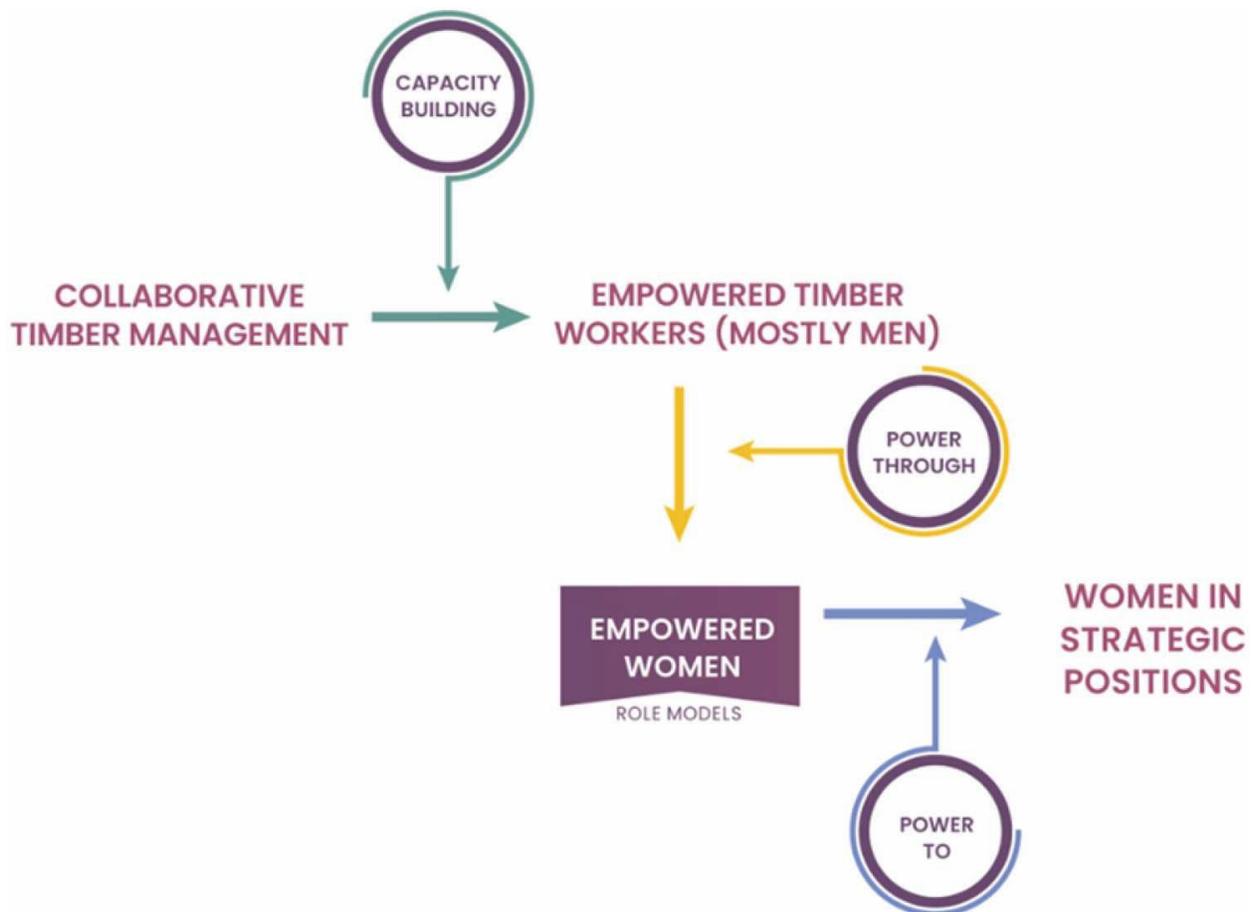


Focus group discussions with women, men, and mixed groups were carried out to discuss gendered perceptions of community empowerment within collaborative timber management.

Within a participatory methodology approach, the authors uncovered that while collaborative timber management projects still centered on male workers, in two of the three extractive reserves, empowerment processes ultimately opened spaces for greater engagement by women overall in strategic administrative and logging coordinator positions.

Drs. Espada and Kainer also added to the scholarly conceptualizations of women's empowerment, demonstrating that 'power through' can lead to more permanent empowerment levels. In the article, the authors demonstrate how 'power through' and 'power to' was empirically applied in the context of collaborative timber management in three extractive reserves of Brazilian Amazon.

The authors claim that to support transformative processes to empower women in community land use and forestry requires awareness of gender-based discriminatory attitudes and practices on the part of men and women, as well as innovations by policymakers, community members, government, and non-governmental organizations. They conclude the article with guidance to key stakeholders such as the government, donors, NGOs, and communities about gender-based on non-discriminatory attitudes and practices.



Green arrows highlight capacity building as a resource that empowered timber workers. Yellow arrows highlight the process wherein women associated with male timber workers were empowered through them. Blue arrows highlight how women who were 'empowered through' could exercise their agency (power to) and achieve strategic positions in the community timber projects, serving as role models and leading to more permanent levels of women's empowerment.

The article is available in this [LINK](#), free for download by April 8, 2023. If you are interested in comment, discuss and request supplemental data, please contact [anaviolatoespada@gmail.com](mailto:anaviolatoespada@gmail.com) or visit <https://anaviolatoespada.com/en/>.

**Other resources** - Dr. Espada prepared a set of six infographics in Portuguese that summarizes the dissertation work to return results to varied audiences. Access to the infographics in this [LINK](#).

The study was supported by the [School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences \(SFFGS\)](#) at the [University of Florida \(UF\)](#), the [Tropical Conservation and Development Program \(TCD\)](#) at the UF [Center for Latin American Studies](#), the [Rufford Foundation Small Grant](#), [IdeaWild](#), the [UF Research Abroad for Doctoral Students Grant](#), and the [International Tropical Timber Organization \(ITTO\) Fellowship Program](#).

The authors extend particular thanks to all research participants and the following organizations: the [Brazilian Chico Mendes Institute of Biodiversity Conservation \(ICMBio\)](#), the [Tropical Forest Institute \(IFT\)](#) through the [Amazon Fund/BNDES](#), the [Institute of Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Amazon \(IDESAM\)](#) through the Amazon Fund/BNDES, and the [Observatory of the Dynamics of Interactions Between Societies and Environment in the Amazon \(Odyssea/CIRAD\)](#).

#SDG5 #WomenInForestry #CommunityManagement #WomenEmpowerment

#SDG5 #MulheresNaFloresta #GestãoComunitária #EmpoderamentodasMulheres

**Social media:**

3 suggestions of posts for social media:

Suggestive photo	Text
 <p>Photo: Ana Violato Espada.</p>	<p>A new article published in Land Use Policy discusses women's empowerment in collaborative timber management in Brazilian Amazonian extractive reserves. Check it out now!</p> <p><a href="https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1gcFJyDvMPmt5">https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1gcFJyDvMPmt5</a></p>
 <p>Photo: Ana Violato Espada.</p>	<p>A new article published in Land Use Policy provides guidance to key stakeholders about gender-based discriminatory attitudes and practices in collaborative timber management. Check it out now!</p> <p><a href="https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1gcFJyDvMPmt5">https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1gcFJyDvMPmt5</a></p>



Photo: Ana Violato Espada.

A new article published in Land Use Policy shows how 'Power through' can be the first step towards women's empowerment in community forestry, while 'Power within' and 'Power to' can lead to transformative agency towards women's placement in strategic positions. Check it out now! <https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1gcFJyDvMPmt5>