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**Social capital and conservation under collective and individual incentive schemes:
a framed field experiment in Indonesia**

by Gracia Maria, Marcela Ibañez, Meike Wollni, and Miriam Vorlaufer

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1. Introduction

Over the last two decades, payments for environmental services (PES) have become a common environmental policy instrument to promote conservation (Le Velly and Dutilly 2016). PES are defined as a voluntary transaction where a buyer buys a well-defined ecosystem service from a service provider if and only if the provider secures its provision (Engel 2016; Engel, Pagiola, and Wunder 2008). Due to the high cost of implementing command and control measures and weak institutions in developing countries, this policy instrument is regarded as being more effective than command and control instruments (Le Velly and Dutilly 2016; Narloch, Pascual, and Drucker 2012; Pagiola, Arcenas, and Platais 2005; Porras and International Institute for Environment and Development. 2010; Wunder and Borner 2011).

Recent systematic reviews suggest that PES reduce deforestation rates, although the effect is relatively modest (Samii et al. 2014; Börner et al. 2017; Adhikari and Agrawal 2013). Experimental evidence supports this finding; e.g., offering payments to forest owners in Uganda for not cutting down their trees led to decreased deforestation rates (Jayachandran et al. 2017; DeFries 2017). However, one concern that remains is how to bundle small individual contracts into one larger agreement to have a complete landscape coverage and to reduce transaction cost (Kerr, Vardhan, and Jindal 2014; Ramirez-Reyes et al. 2018). Individual payments do not explicitly promote the coordination among suppliers to conserve, contiguous land parcels and hence potentially result in low ecological services.

An alternative to overcome this problem is to use a collective incentive scheme, where individual service providers receive a payment only if a minimum level of conservation is achieved at the group level (Kerr, Vardhan, and Jindal 2014; Dickman, Macdonald, and Macdonald 2011).

However, uncertainty on whether the threshold can be trespassed and the possibility for free-riding behavior might decrease the effectiveness of collective schemes compared to an individual payment scheme. For example, Narloch et al (2012) identified that collective

34 incentives affect positively conservation outcomes but its effect was undermined due to free-
35 ridding behavior.

36

37 Social norms are understood as key when implementing payment for environmental
38 services (Clements et al. 2010; Grima et al. 2016; Midler et al. 2015; Muradian et al. 2010;
39 Narloch, Pascual, and Drucker 2012). Pretty (2003) argues that where there is a strong
40 social norm, individuals have confidence to invest in pro-social activities, knowing that others
41 will do so too. Middler et.al. (2015) identified that collective incentives have a positive effect
42 on conservation only when social ties are strong.

43

44 In this paper, we investigate the effectiveness of individual versus collective payment
45 schemes in promoting conservation using a framed field experiment. We assess the
46 response to PES schemes and disentangle heterogeneous effects of individual and
47 collective schemes. In addition, we explore to what extent the behavior of others, or the
48 unwritten social norms, help to enhance conservation under individual and collective
49 incentive schemes.

50

51 As case study, we focus on Indonesia which has the third largest area of tropical rainforest in
52 the world after the Amazon and Congo Basins (Fitzherbert et al. 2008). Despite its
53 reputation as a global biodiversity hotspot, the country is also known as one of the top three
54 greenhouse gas emitters from deforestation worldwide, partly due to the expansion of oil
55 palm cultivation (Sloan, Edwards, and Laurance 2012; Carlson et al. 2012). It is estimated
56 that 53 percent of the total area planted with oil palm in Indonesia is the result of
57 deforestation since 1989 (Vijay et al. 2016). In response, the Government of Indonesia has
58 started more than 60 REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest
59 Degradation) activities, being one of them the provision of monetary incentives to reduce
60 land conversion and promote sustainable forest management (FCPF 2018). In this regard,
61 this study provides insights on farmers' response to different PES schemes to foster
62 environmentally friendly behavior associated with the cultivation of rubber agroforestry.

63

64 Our framed field experiment is based on Vorlauffer et al. (2017). Participants decide how to
65 allocate their endowment of land between two alternative products commonly grown in the
66 region: rubber agroforestry and oil palm plantations. Replicating actual trade-offs in the land
67 allocation decisions, we set the experiment such that cultivation in oil palm yields higher
68 returns than the cultivation of rubber agroforestry. Yet, to capture the effects that rubber

69 agroforestry generates on the environment (e.g., soil conservation, biodiversity habitat, etc.),
70 we allow positive externalities to the cultivation of rubber agroforestry.

71

72 To examine how heterogeneity in endowments and in returns affects conservation decisions,
73 we vary the endowment of land that individuals in a group receive. Two individuals are low
74 endowed and receive 5 units of land and one individual is high endowed and receives 10
75 units. We extended this experiment to include a between subject design, where participants
76 took identical land allocation decisions but under an alternative incentive schemes. The
77 incentive was framed as Payment for Environmental Services aiming to foster
78 environmentally friendly behavior associated with the cultivation of rubber agroforestry.

79

80 We experimentally vary two characteristics of the scheme. We implemented either an
81 individual or collective incentive scheme and under each scheme we offered a low and a
82 high incentive. Under the individual scheme, participants received the payment individually
83 for each unit of endowment individually allocated to conservation. In the collective incentive
84 scheme, participants received the incentive based on their individual allocation, but only
85 once the total number of land units allocated to the conservation of rubber agroforestry at the
86 group level reached a minimum threshold level.

87

88 We find a significant proportion of the endowment of land (40 percent) is devoted to rubber
89 agroforestry. As expected farmers with high endowments invest a significantly larger fraction
90 of their land endowments (52 percent) compared to low endowed individuals (45 percent)
91 under individual schemes. We find that PES are effective at promoting conservation.
92 However, the elasticity of supply is relatively low. A one percent increase in the payments
93 leads to a 0.02 percent increase in the area conserved. Comparing individual and collective
94 incentives, we find that they are equally effective at promoting conservation on the average.

95

96 There are many studies analyzing the effect of PES but relatively few studies exploring the
97 response to individual and collective PES schemes. Midler et al. (2015) analyze collective
98 and individual types of PES schemes with and without communication. Supporting the
99 importance of social norms, they find that collective incentive promotes conservation only
100 when social ties are strong (number of family members in the same session) or when
101 communication was allowed. More recently, Kaczan et al (2017) showed that collective
102 incentives increase the time contribution for conservation practices. We contribute to the
103 literature by explicitly considering how heterogeneity in land endowments and the interaction

104 of monetary incentives with network behavior affects farmer's pro-environmental behavior
105 under PES schemes.

106

107 There is limited literature concerning land use heterogeneity providing recommendations for
108 the design of payments for environmental services. In terms of PES geographical focus, Eloy
109 (2012) performed an analysis of land use heterogeneity in agricultural frontiers in the
110 Amazonia showing that PES policies should focus on remote areas, where the initial stage of
111 deforestation usually takes place, where the agro ecosystem fertility and agro biodiversity
112 are already high and where farmers are younger and poorer (Eloy et al. 2012). With regards
113 to response to incentives considering land heterogeneity, Vorlaufer et al. (2017) show that
114 farmers with low land endowment (poor) reacted more strongly to PES than farmers with
115 high endowment (rich). In the same line, Keser (2014) found that when there are strong
116 asymmetries in endowment, high endowed (rich) participants contribute significantly lower
117 percentage than low-endowed (poor) participants (Keser et al. 2014). Yet, these studies do
118 not compare different PES schemes.

119

120 This paper also contributes to the literature studying the how social norms affect the
121 effectiveness of PES. Barr et al (2012) study the role of trust, group membership and
122 networks in an individual incentive scheme. They found that trust and group membership
123 positively reinforce individual participation while the presence within a reciprocal fishing
124 dependency network reduces the likelihood of participation. Similarly, Chen et. al. (2009)
125 found that farmer's intention to re-enroll in the Grain-to-Green Program in China decreased if
126 they observed reconversion to non-green technologies among their neighbors.

127

128 The paper is structured as follows: Section two provides background and context in terms of
129 previous PES in Indonesia and the importance of the region. In Section three, we present
130 the literature review on the empirical evidence about social norms and network, PES and
131 environmental outcomes. Section four presents the theoretical framework of the investment
132 game; followed by section five, where details of the empirical data are presented. In Section
133 six, we present descriptive statistics followed by the econometric results. Finally, in Section
134 seven, we discussed the implications of the findings at the policy level with regards to natural
135 resources management initiatives in Indonesia and the design of PES in general.

136

137 **2. Conceptual framework**

138 We consider the individual decision on land use. Each individual i has e_i units of land which
 139 we refer to as hectares. Their task is to decide how to allocate the endowment between oil
 140 palm and rubber agroforestry. We denote r_i the number of units that are invested in rubber
 141 agroforestry and consider that the land that is not invested in rubber agroforestry is invested
 142 in oil palm ($e_i - r_i$). Acknowledging the existence of multiple types of individuals as a core
 143 principle of modeling collective behavior (Ostrom 2007), we consider that producers are
 144 heterogeneous in terms of size of available land. Therefore, we have low-endowed
 145 individuals, L, with e_L units of land and high endowed individuals, H, with e_H units of land.
 146 Consistent with the fact that the cultivation of rubber agroforestry generates positive
 147 environmental effects (i.e. host lowland biodiversity, carbon storage, improve water quality,
 148 among others) we consider that each unit invested in rubber agroforestry generates a
 149 positive externality, β , to the members of the group. In addition, consistent with the fact that
 150 rubber agroforestry has lower economic returns than oil palm (Djanibekov and Villamor
 151 2017), we set the marginal return generated by each hectare of oil palm to 1, while the
 152 marginal return from one hectare of rubber agroforestry is set to $\gamma < 1$. We further allow
 153 different marginal returns for low and high-endowed individuals. We assume that low-
 154 endowed individuals are less productive in rubber-agroforestry than high-endowed
 155 individuals and set $\gamma_L < \gamma_H$..

156
 157 To account for the possibility that individuals internalize the cost that cultivating oil palm
 158 generates to nature, similar to Ibanez and Martinsson (2010) we assume that individuals
 159 disutility from cultivating oil palm is $M = c_i(e_{ik} - r_{ik})^2$ Where c_i denotes a parameter that
 160 measures the importance that individual i gives to conservation. For an individual who does
 161 not care about conservation, $c_i = 0$. Whereas for an individual who gives importance to the
 162 environment $c_i > 0$.

163 The individual's utility function U_i is given by:

$$U_{Ki} = e_{ik} - r_{ik} + \gamma_K r_{ik} + \beta \sum_{j=1}^{n=2} r_j - c_i(e_{ik} - r_{ik})^2 \quad (1)$$

164 where $K = \{L, H\}$.

165
 166 Taking as given the investment decisions of others, r_j , the marginal incentive to invest in
 167 rubber agroforestry is:

$$\frac{dU_{ik}}{dr_{ik}} = -1 + \gamma_K + 2c_i(e_{ik} - r_{ik})$$

168

169 Because the marginal return from oil palm is higher than from rubber agroforestry, the model
 170 predicts that an individual who does not care about conservation will allocate all the
 171 endowment to oil palm instead of rubber agroforestry ($r_i^* = 0$). Alternatively, for an
 172 individual who cares sufficiently about conservation such that $\frac{dU_{ik}}{dr_{iK}} = 0$ we will have an
 173 interior solution where the investment in rubber agroforestry is:

174

$$r_{iK} = \frac{2c_i e_{iK} + \gamma_K - 1}{2c_i} \quad (2)$$

175

176 Hence, the units of land in rubber agroforestry will increase as individuals give more
 177 importance to the environment, have more land endowments and have higher marginal
 178 return from cultivating rubber agroforestry. From this condition, we derive our first
 179 hypothesis:

180

181 H1. The proportion of land invested in rubber agroforestry is larger for high-endowed
 182 individuals compared to low endowed individuals.

183

184 The basic decision problem is extended to investigate the effectiveness of different
 185 institutional designs of PES. The first design that we consider is one in which PES are
 186 offered to each individual. For each unit of land invested in rubber agroforestry, participants
 187 receive $\gamma_K + PES$. Individual's utility is:

$$U_{Ki} = e_{ik} - r_{iK} + (\gamma_K + PES_K)r_{iK} + \beta \sum_{j=1}^{n=2} r_j - c_i(e_{ik} - r_{iK})^2 \quad (3)$$

188

189 As shown in Vorlauffer et al. (2017) an individual payment is predicted to increase the
 190 likelihood that an individual invests in rubber agroforestry. In addition, conditional on positive
 191 investments, PES increases the amount of endowment that individuals invest in agroforestry.

192 For individuals who care about the environment, $\left(\frac{dU_{ik}}{dr_{iK}} = 0\right)$, the marginal effect of an
 193 increase in PES is:

194

$$\frac{dr_{iK}}{dPES_K} = \frac{1}{2c_i} \quad (4)$$

195

196 Hence, the model predicts that the response to the incentive is independent on the
197 endowment of land.

198

199 The second design considers a collective incentive. Under this scheme, n community
200 members receive a payment PES conditional on achieving a specified target level of
201 conservation. If the total area conserved by the community is larger than a pre-specified
202 threshold T ($\sum_{i=1}^n r_{iK} \geq T$) the individual i receives the incentive independently on her
203 conservation decisions. In this case, $\sum_{i=1}^n r_{iK} \geq T$ individual's utility is given by Equation
204 **Error! Reference source not found.** If the threshold is not reached, no community
205 member receives the payment. In this case individual's utility is given by Equation (1).
206 Participants expected utility of investing in rubber agroforestry depends on the subjective
207 probability, p_i , that individual assigns that the group reaches the threshold level. We assume
208 that individuals have rational expectations and that the expected probability depends on
209 individual's experience on how much community members invest in rubber agroforestry.

210

211 It is straightforward to show that compared with the individual incentive, collective incentives
212 have a lower effect on the likelihood that individuals invest in rubber agroforestry and the
213 amount of land that is devoted to rubber agroforestry. The marginal effect of PES for
214 individuals who do cultivate rubber agroforestry concerns is:

215

$$\frac{dr_{iK}}{dPES_K} = \frac{p_i}{2c_i} \quad (4)$$

216

217 Based on this extension of the basic model we derive the following hypotheses:

218

219 H2: Under collective incentives the effect of PES on conservation would be lower than under
220 individual incentives. The effect of PES is independent of endowment of land.

221

222 H3. Conservation behavior is dependent on the individual's expected investment of network
223 members. As more network members cultivate rubber agroforestry, more land is allocated
224 to rubber agroforestry under collective incentives but not under individual incentives.

225

226

227

228 3. Background

229 Indonesia spreads over more than 18,000 islands; with around 60% of the territory being
230 located in tropical rainforest. Due to the high levels of endemic species and rich biodiversity,
231 this country is of worldwide environmental importance (Waltert, Mardiasuti, and Mühlenberg
232 2004). Oil palm plantations cover approximately 8 million hectares in Indonesia and it is
233 expected that they will reach about 13 million hectares by 2020 (Cacho et al. 2014). The
234 establishment of oil palm and timber plantations have now become the main drivers of
235 deforestation in Indonesia (Cacho et al. 2014; Koh and Wilcove 2008). The increasing world
236 demand for crude palm oil and the national policies on biofuels requiring either ethanol or
237 palm-oil biodiesel in the fuel mix suggest that expansion of oil palm plantations will continue
238 (Dillon et al. 2008). Much of the production in Indonesia comes from large-scale plantations,
239 however, independent smallholders are increasing their share and may dominate production
240 in the future.

241
242 PES are regarded as a promising policy instrument to foster conservation and promote
243 alternative agroforestry systems such as rubber agroforest (Engel, Pagiola, and Wunder
244 2008; Muradian et al. 2010; Muradian 2013; Börner et al. 2017). Rubber agroforest
245 represents a traditional, extensive management system, which is established by inter-
246 planting rubber trees with native fruit and timber trees. Rubber agroforest can rapidly
247 develop a vegetation structure close to that of secondary forest of similar age (Ekadinata,
248 Widayati, and Vincent 2004) and therefore generates positive environmental effects (i.e.
249 improved water quality, increased soil fertility and higher biodiversity).

250
251 Indonesia has implemented PES instruments to promote the provision of water and carbon
252 sequestration services in the Bungo watershed and Lake Singkarak (Adhikari and Agrawal
253 2013). Farmers who protect upper watersheds and avoid planned deforestation or increase
254 tree planting have benefited from these schemes (Kerr, Vardhan, and Jindal 2014; Lapeyre,
255 Pirard, and Leimona 2015; Suich et al. 2017). Under this scheme, the community leaders
256 certify compliance with conservation goals. The success of the mechanisms has been
257 associated with increased coordination by publically agreeing expected behavior.
258 Furthermore, social sanctions for not compliance are expected to foster compliance
259 (Coleman 1987).

260
261 Kerr et al (2014) examined the “Hutan Kamasyarakatan (HKm) Social Forestry Program”,
262 which offered an in-kind individual incentive (probationary land right) in exchange for

263 watershed protection. Participation was on a voluntary basis but required individuals to be
264 part of an organized group, which guaranteed compliance at the individual level. The Social
265 Forestry Program was considered a success because most farmers did not have land
266 security and the option of having a provisional land right was incentive enough to protect the
267 watershed; in addition, farmers had the possibility to extend this land right permit for a 25-
268 year period after the first five years. Nowadays, land rights have been granted for longer
269 period (25 years) and are no longer an in-kind incentive.

270

271 The result of this study are particularly relevant as the Indonesian Government has started
272 more than 60 REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation)
273 activities, being one of them the provision of monetary incentives to reduce land conversion
274 and promote sustainable forest management (FCPF 2018). In our study area, the Jambi
275 province, these incentives are yet to be implemented.

276

277 To the best of our knowledge there are no studies that analyze the conservation outcomes of
278 collective schemes under different payment levels and therefore this study provides insights
279 on farmers' response to different PES schemes to foster environmentally friendly behavior
280 associated with the cultivation of rubber agroforestry.

281

282 **4. Experimental design and procedure**

283 The experimental design aims at testing the effectiveness of different institutional designs of
284 PES to foster conservation decisions. We formed random and anonymous groups of three
285 participants ($n=3$). Two participants in the group were randomly assigned to receive an
286 endowment $e_L=5$ and one participant received $e_H=10$. The participants' task was then to
287 decide how to allocate their endowment between oil palm and rubber agroforestry. The
288 scenarios reproduce the investment decision presented in the theoretical model ($\gamma_L < \gamma_H <$
289 1). Considering the estimates by Feintrenie et al. (2010) of rubber agroforestry and oil palm
290 productivity in Jambi province, we set the marginal return of rubber agroforestry of low-
291 endowed participants to $\gamma_L = 0.5$, and for high-endowed participants to $\gamma_H = 0.6$.

292

293 Participants were explained about the positive externalities of rubber agroforestry and how
294 this system contributes to habitat for biodiversity, carbon sequestration. In our experiment,
295 we emphasize that by their decision on allocating hectares to rubber agroforestry they will be
296 benefiting group members. Assigning a value to the externality is challenging due to the
297 complex relationships between land management, biodiversity and fluctuations in ecological

328 services, (Pascual and Perrings 2007). As far as we are aware, there is no economic
 329 valuation of the effects of rubber agroforestry on the environment. For the experiment, we
 330 let each experimental unit of land cultivated with rubber agroforestry generate a value of
 331 $\beta=0.2$.

332
 333 In the experiment we use a between-within subject design that varies the type of incentive
 334 scheme and the payment level across two payment sets (Table 1). In the within subject
 335 design, each participant was presented with three decisions that vary the value of the
 336 incentive. In the first decision the incentive is set to zero (baseline without PES); the second
 337 and third decisions correspond to either a low or a high incentive depending on the order
 338 randomly pre-determined for the session. In the between subject design, we tested two
 339 different types of PES, individual and collective, and implemented two different payment
 340 sets. While under the individual incentive scheme, participants received a flat-rate payment
 341 for each experimental land unit allocated to rubber agroforestry, under the collective
 342 scheme, payment is conditional on the achievement of an aggregate conservation threshold.
 343 We set the threshold level at $T=7$, corresponding to 35% of the aggregate land endowment
 344 at group level. Table 1 presents an overview of the parameters used in the experiment.

345 Table 1. Parameters used and participants in the experiment by treatment and endowment status

Treatments	Endowment (e)	Marginal per capita return (γ)	PES Set 1		PES Set 2		Positive externalities (β)	Total	
			PES_L	PES_H	PES_L	PES_H		Participants (N=246)	Groups (N=82)
Individual Incentive	$e_L = 5$	$\gamma_L = 0.5$	0.05	0.25	0.1	0.3	0.2	88	22
	$e_H = 10$	$\gamma_H = 0.6$	0.05	0.25	0.1	0.3	0.2	44	22
Collective incentive	$e_L = 5$	$\gamma_L = 0.5$	0.05	0.25	0.1	0.3	0.2	76	18
	$e_H = 10$	$\gamma_H = 0.6$	0.05	0.25	0.1	0.3	0.2	38	20

346
 347 The experiment was implemented from November 2012 until March 2013. The participants
 348 were randomly invited to participate in the experiment based on a village census. At the start
 349 of the session, the instructions of the game were read aloud to the participants, followed by
 350 several examples. To improve understanding of the rules of the game, we worked with
 351 visualizations and to illustrate investment decisions, participants were presented with
 352 pictures from oil palm and rubber agroforestry systems. The endowment with experimental
 353 land units was represented by color stickers. After completion of two practice rounds, the
 354 actual experiment was carried out. Participants did not receive feedback on investment
 355 decisions of other group members and communication was not allowed throughout the
 356 session.

357
 358 In total 30 experimental sessions were carried out, 16 with the individual incentive scheme
 359 and 14 with the collective incentive scheme. Each experimental session had between 2 and

330 3 groups, with a total of 246 participants and 82 groups from which 44 groups participated in
 331 the individual incentive scheme and 38 in the collective incentive scheme. On average,
 332 participants earned 86,347 Rp, which is equivalent to one to two daily wages in the research
 333 area. A post experimental questionnaire was applied to gather information concerning
 334 individual socio-economic characteristics, perception of fairness towards the payment,
 335 reasons behind their decision on planting oil palm and rubber agroforestry, number of family
 336 members that participated in the same session, number of participants in the same session
 337 known by name, and the number of participants in the same session with whom the
 338 participant has interacted in the last month.

339
 340 In addition, as illustrated in Equation **Error! Reference source not found.** the subjective
 341 probability, p_i , that individual assigns depends on the individual's experience on how much
 342 community members invest in rubber agroforestry. In order to capture individual's
 343 experience on how much its community invest in rubber agroforestry, a socioeconomic
 344 survey including questions with regard to social norms and network was performed. The
 345 survey applied the random matching within sample technique (Maertens and Barrett, 2013),
 346 where each farmer was matched with nine randomly drawn individuals from the sample in
 347 each village and, for each match, we elicit details of the relationship between the farmer and
 348 the match. Based on Conley and Udry (2001) and Maertens and Barrett (2013), we include
 349 questions such as: do you know farmer X?, when did you last talk with X?, in a normal
 350 month, how often do you talk to X?, Does X plant oil palm, rubber monoculture or rubber
 351 agroforest? and how many hectares does X cultivate?. Since the matching was random,
 352 these measures give us an indication of the farmer's social connectedness within the
 353 community and his perceptions regarding the cultivation activities of his social network
 354 members. We use the responses to these questions to capture the subjective probability
 355 that the farmer attaches to other community members investing in rubber agroforestry.

356 5. Estimation approach

357 In order to analyze the effect of individual and collective schemes on conservation behavior,
 358 we define as dependent variable the share of the total endowment allocated to rubber
 359 agroforestry. Thus, the model we estimate is the following:

360

$$Y_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_T T_i + \beta_{PES} PES_{it} + \beta_{TxPES} (T_i \times PES_{it}) + X_i' \beta + S_i' \beta + u_i + v_{it} \quad (5)$$

361 Where, Y_{it} is the conservation outcome by participant i in decision t . T is a dummy that takes
 362 value equal to one if the collective scheme was implemented and zero otherwise, PES is the

363 value of the incentive that was offered to participants (0.05, 0.10, 0.25, 0.30). Our coefficient
 364 of interest is β_{TxPES} . Our hypothesis is that this coefficient is negative indicating that
 365 participants respond less to the collective than to the individual incentive. The vectors X and
 366 S represent socioeconomic characteristics and social norm and network variables, while
 367 u_i stands for the idiosyncratic error term and v_{it} is the residual. With regards to S_i' we
 368 include the characteristics of the farmer's network with regards to the aggregate level of
 369 environmental connectedness from his/her network, number of people from his/her network
 370 that cultivates rubber agroforestry and number of people from his/her network that cultivates
 371 oil palm. In addition we consider how much weight a farmer gives to act like others and to
 372 comply with the social norm. We expect that farmers refer to their social network to derive
 373 predictions on how their group members will behave and what the social norm is; for
 374 example, a farmer with a larger network cultivating oil palm is expected to invest less in
 375 rubber agroforestry under the collective incentive scheme (Hypothesis 3) while it should not
 376 affect investment under the individual PES.

377

378 To disentangle heterogeneous effects by land-endowment we define as dependent variable
 379 the individual share of the total endowment allocated to rubber agroforestry. Thus, the model
 380 we estimate is the following:

381

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_{PES}PES_i + \beta_{KxES}(K_i \times PES_{it}) + X_i'\beta + S_i'\beta + u_i + v_{it} \quad (6)$$

382

383 Where, Y is the conservation outcome by participant i . K is a dummy that takes value equal
 384 to one if the individual was endowed with ten hectares and zero otherwise, PES is the value
 385 of the incentive that was offered to participants (0.05, 0.10, 0.25, 0.30). Our coefficients of
 386 interest are β_{ES} and β_{KxPES} which compare the response of low and high endowed
 387 individuals to PES, respectively. Our hypothesis is that β_{PES} will be positive. The model
 388 predicts that β_{KxPES} will be not significantly different from zero, indicating that low and high
 389 endowed individuals react similarly to PES. The vectors X and S represent socioeconomic
 390 characteristics and social norm and network variables, while u_i stands for the idiosyncratic
 391 error term and v_{it} is the residual.

392

393 To account for the panel structure of the data, we estimate a Generalized Least squares
 394 (GLS) random effects model. Although our dependent variable ranges between 0 and 1, it is
 395 distributed normally justifying the use of this model.

396 **6. Results**

397 **6.1 Descriptive statistics**

398 From the total sample of farmers, 54% were assigned to the individual incentive scheme and
 399 46% to the collective incentive scheme. The socioeconomic characteristics of the
 400 participants in the study are comparable across villages. The balance across sample for
 401 individual and collective treatment shows no significant differences with regards to age,
 402 education and size of the farm. Farmers are on average 43.78 years old with successful
 403 completion of elementary school (six years of education) but have not finalized secondary
 404 school (Table 2). Participants of the two treatments do not differ in terms of area of oil palm
 405 cultivated and the size of the farm. The crop that is cultivated more commonly by the
 406 participants is oil palm, followed by rubber and small portion with rubber agroforestry. On
 407 average 86 percent of the participants have as main occupation agriculture.

408
 409 The results of the random matching within sample technique showed that farmers on the
 410 average know four people that cultivate rubber agroforestry and six people that cultivate oil
 411 palm; the level of education of the network is on average 7.45 years of schooling. In general,
 412 the network has the same pattern of cultivation, being oil palm the predominant crop,
 413 followed by rubber and in small proportion jungle rubber.

414 Table 2. Summary Statistics and balance check

Variables	Mean	S.D.	Balance across sample ¹		p-value
			Individual Treatment (Mean)	Collective Treatment (Mean)	
Age	43.79	11.01	43.73	43.88	0.51
Sex (=1 if female)	0.06	0.24	0.05	0.08	0.48
Education (=years of schooling)	7.70	3.73	7.65	7.75	0.48
Size of the farm (has)	3.84	6.00	3.21	4.65	0.47
Area of oil palm cultivated by the participant (has)	2.35	3.46	1.98	2.78	0.46
Area of rubber agroforestry cultivated by the participant (has)	0.33	1.91	0.31	0.34	0.48
Main occupation (=1 if it is agriculture else 0)	0.86	0.35	0.88	0.82	0.53
Individual environmental perception	0.81	0.39	0.83	0.79	0.52
Family members in the same session	1.03	1.68	1.20	0.83	0.55
People known by name in the same session	7.24	1.50	7.53	6.91	0.00
People with whom the participant speaks at least once per month in the same session	3.80	2.54	4.08	3.53	0.33
Social rubber agroforestry network	4.47	3.13	4.41	4.52	0.82
Social oil palm network	6.83	2.02	6.81	6.88	0.76
Environmental connectedness of the network	5.53	1.01	5.49	5.59	0.59
Stated commitment to comply and be consistent with the social norm (=1 if yes)	0.70	0.45	0.73	0.68	0.53

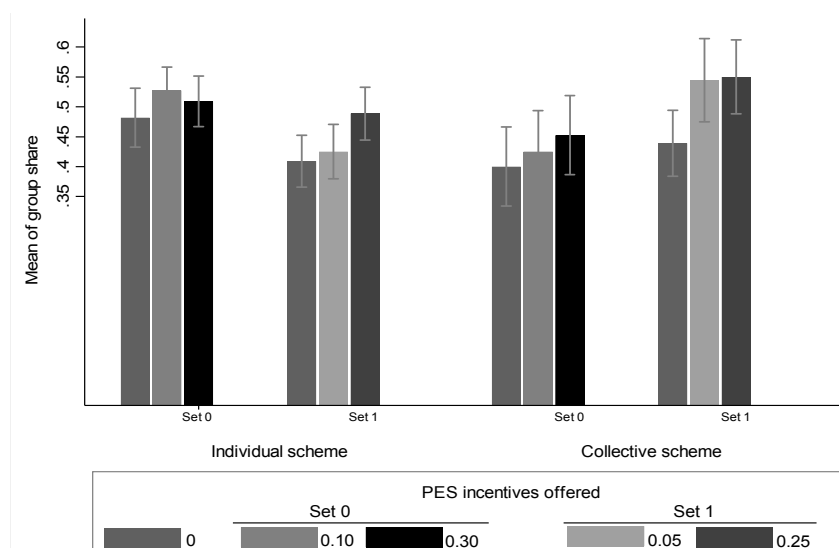
415 ¹ Two-sample Wilcoxon rank-sum (Mann-Whitney) test. S.D. stands for Standard Deviation

416

417 In addition, we observed high environmental connectedness of the network (5.53 out of 7)
 418 and around 70 percent of the participants stated that they have and will behave to comply
 419 and be consistent with the social norm.

420

421 The response from the participants in the experiment at the group level is displayed in Figure
 422 1. The figure shows the mean share allocated to conservation at the group level by
 423 treatment and payment set. The lines represent the confidence intervals. There are initial
 424 differences in the share allocated to conservation among payment sets for individual
 425 payments (Wilcoxon rank-sum test, $p < 0.10$). This suggests that in the econometric analysis
 426 we need to control for payment set. We also find that the share conserved increases with
 427 higher PES. Figure 1 shows that at baseline (no incentive), on average 40 to 48 percent of
 428 the land is invested in conservation. The share increases when participants are offered a
 429 PES, at low incentives, 0.05 and 0.10, the share increases by 4.5 percent and high
 430 incentives, 0.25 and 0.30, the share increases by 6.5 percent compared to the average of
 431 the baseline respectively.



432

433
 434

Figure 1. Mean group share allocated to conservation

435 6.1.1 Collective versus individual scheme

436 To test the effect of individual and collective schemes on conservation behavior we analyze
 437 the proportion of total endowment allocated to rubber agroforestry at the group level (Group
 438 share). We estimate equation 8 for the pooled sample controlling for session dummies with
 439 clustered standard errors at the session level (Table 3). We find that when there are no
 440 incentives 45 percent of endowment is invested in rubber agroforestry. This indicates that

441 participant have high concerns for the environment, assigning a high moral cost from
 442 investing in oil palm. PES has a positive although small effect on conservation.

443 Table 3. Random effects GLS estimation for share of land conserved at the group level

	(1) Group share of land conserved	
	Coef.	S.E.
PES Incentive	0.002*	0.001
Treatment (=1 if collective)	-0.013	0.056
Collective * PES incentive	0.000	0.001
Constant	0.453***	0.028
N	246	
chi2	8.494	
P	0.037	
Linear combination		
PES Incentive + Collective*PES incentive	0.002**	0.0010

444 Note: Standard errors are clustered at the session level.
 445 * p<0.1, ** p<0.05, *** p<0.01

446
 447 A one percent increase in incentives increases investments in rubber agroforestry by 0.17
 448 percentual points under individual incentives and by 0.23 percentual points under collective
 449 incentives. Yet, as indicated by the coefficient on the interaction term, this difference is not
 450 statistically significant. Hence we reject H2 stating that the elasticity of supply to PES is
 451 lower under collective than under individual incentive schemes. This unexpected result
 452 could indicate that individual assign a high probability or receive the incentive under collective
 453 incentive, or that they expect that the other participants would invest sufficiently in rubber
 454 agroforestry to receive the PES.

455 6.1.2 Heterogeneous effects

456 There has been little attention to asymmetry in endowment in the experiments when
 457 analyzing individual or collective PES schemes. The opportunity costs of allocating scarce
 458 resources to conservation are often significant for resource users with limited endowments
 459 (Narloch, Pascual, and Drucker 2012), as is the case for our low-endowed participants. In
 460 this study, we test whether conservation behavior under individual and collective schemes
 461 differs by endowment level (Table 4). For this purpose, we estimate equation 9 separately by
 462 individual and collective scheme and interacted endowment level with the PES incentive
 463 (model 2 and 3).

464
 465 Results from model 2 show that in the absence of PES, individuals with high endowment of
 466 land invest a larger proportion of the endowment in rubber agroforestry. Yet, the results of
 467 model 3, indicate the opposite. Therefore we reject Hypothesis 1, stating that individuals
 468 with larger endowments invest a larger proportion of land in conservation.

469

470 Model 2 indicate that payments significantly increased conservation among low endowed
 471 participants. Yet the elasticity is relatively small and a one percent increase in PES
 472 increases the endowment invested in rubber agroforestry in only 0.3 percentual points
 473 ($p < 0.1$). In contrast, among high endowed participants the effect, given by the linear
 474 combination of coefficients is in fact not significantly different from zero ($p > 0.10$) as predicted
 475 by the model.

476
 477 Under the collective scheme, PES significantly increases conservation among low endowed
 478 participants, although the size of the effect is small. A one percent increase in PES
 479 increases land conserve in only 0.1 percentual points ($p < 0.05$). The effect of PES on land
 480 conservation from high endowed participants is slightly larger (0.3 percentual points,
 481 $p < 0.10$). Thus, the results indicate that the two types of PES schemes have the same effect
 482 on participants with different land endowments.

483

484 Table 4. Random effect GLS estimation of individual share of land allocated to rubber agroforestry

Variables	(2) Individual scheme		(3) Collective Scheme		(4) Individual scheme		(5) Collective Scheme	
	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.
Endowment (=1 if 10has)	0.110*	0.059	-0.119*	0.075	0.091	0.057	-0.082	0.074
PES Incentive	0.003*	0.002	0.001*	0.001				
High-endowed X PES incentive	-0.002	0.002	0.003	0.002				
<i>Level of PES</i>								
Low (0.05-0.1)					0.027	0.021	0.066***	0.021
High (0.25-0.30)					0.066**	0.029	0.076***	0.020
Constant	0.352**	0.145	0.329	0.234	0.356**	0.147	0.285	0.236
N	382		306		382		306	382
chi2	49.92		30.007		27.274		34.228	27.274
P	0.000		0.001		0.002		0.000	0.002

485 Note: All models control for age, sex, education, land tenure, family members, people known by name and people with whom the participant
 486 speak in the last month in the same session. Standard errors are clustered at the session level. * $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

487

488 To analyze if the effectiveness of the two schemes is conditional on whether high or low
 489 incentives are offered¹ we aggregate the average share of land from the two lower (0.05 and
 490 0.1) and from the two higher (0.25 and 0.30) discrete PES offered. The results indicate that
 491 under the individual scheme low incentives were not sufficient to alter the farmer's behavior
 492 in comparison with the baseline (no incentive scenario). However, high incentives increase
 493 the individual share of land allocated to rubber agroforestry by 6.1 percentual points

¹ As mentioned in the experimental procedure, we offer four discretional PES levels 0.05, 0.1, 0.25, 0.30.

494 compared to the baseline. This means that although conservation levels can be achieved
 495 with individual schemes higher payment levels are required to motivate the farmer to engage
 496 in the scheme.

497

498 In contrast, low incentives under the collective scheme have a positive and significant
 499 influence on conservation behavior increasing the share of land allocated to rubber
 500 agroforestry by 6.0 percentual points. High incentives also have a significant and positive
 501 effect under the collective scheme, although the size of the effect (6.8 percentual points) is
 502 not much larger than with low incentives. Thus, as regards cost-effectiveness, collective
 503 incentives may offer the opportunity to achieve similar conservation outcomes at lower cost.

504

505 **6.1.3 PES interaction with social norm and network characteristics**

506 Social interactions are critical within collective processes (Kaczan et al. 2017), in this regard
 507 we analyze the effect of the participants' network characteristics and the stated disposition to
 508 act according to the social norm and their interaction with the incentives. Table 5 shows that
 509 characteristics related to the participant's social network have a significant influence on the
 510 conservation behavior mainly under the collective scheme, supporting Hypothesis 3.
 511 Individual characteristics are more prominent when PES area offered under individual
 512 schemes.

513

514 Under the collective scheme, we observed the size of the social agroforestry network and
 515 the environmental perception of the network having a positive effect, increasing the share of
 516 land conserved by 24 and 6 percentual points respectively. In addition, we observe the
 517 negative effect of having a large oil palm network and a high compliance with the norm,
 518 implying that an additional person in the social oil palm network of the participant reduces
 519 the share of land allocated to rubber agroforest by 4 percentual points and the more willing a
 520 participant is to comply with what the social norm establishes, his contribution is reduced by
 521 16 percentual points. This negative effect could be explain in two ways: 1) participants want
 522 to perform as the social norm in the area, which is the cultivation of oil palm and feel
 523 pressure to comply with the norm; and 2) in real life, individuals consider the behavior of
 524 others to predict the probability of conservation from the group members.

525 **Table 5. Random effect GLS estimation of individual share of land allocated to rubber agroforestry**

Variables	(6)		(7)	
	Individual		Collective	
	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.
PES incentive	-0.00536	0.004	0.00483	0.006

Variables	(6)		(7)	
	Individual		Collective	
	Coef.	S.E.	Coef.	S.E.
Endowment (=1 if 10 hectares)	0.10839*	0.096	-0.04136	0.122
<i>Individual characteristics</i>				
Individual environmental perception	0.10671***	0.039	-0.05551	0.058
Jungle rubber cultivated by the participant	0.01904***	0.007	0.03780***	0.015
<i>Social network characteristics</i>				
Social Agroforestry network	0.19523	0.197	0.24918***	0.073
Compliance with the social norm (normative social influence)	-0.09740	0.078	-0.16948***	0.046
Environmental perception of the network	-0.01207	0.023	0.06471*	0.038
Social Oil palm network	-0.02568**	0.011	-0.04563**	0.019
<i>Interactions</i>				
PES * Social Agroforestry network	-0.00467***	0.001	0.00968***	0.002
PES * Social Oil palm network	-0.00062	0.001	-0.00017	0.000
PES* Compliance with the social norm (Normative social influence)	0.00252	0.002	-0.00120	0.002
PES *Environmental perception of the network	0.00186**	0.001	-0.00017	0.001
Constant	0.52212**	0.235	0.54140	0.429

Note: All models control for age, sex, education, land tenure, family members, people known by name and people with whom the participant speak in the last month in the same session. Standard errors are clustered at the session level. * p<0.1, ** p<0.05, *** p<0.01

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544 7. Conclusions

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547 that both types of schemes are effective at increasing conservation, though the impact is
548 relatively small. A one percent increase in PES increases conservation in only 2 percentual
549 points or three percent of the investment.

550 Our findings contribute to the discussion in terms of individual versus collective PES
551 schemes, specifically showing that collective schemes can be as effective as individual
552 schemes.. The results indicate that collective schemes can be more cost-effective because it
553 achieves conservation outcome at lower incentive payments and engage large landowners,
554 who may feel the moral pressure to contribute their share under such institutional
555 arrangements. While smaller farmers respond to individual and collective incentives, their
556 contribution is slightly larger under the individual scheme (0.3%) compared to the collective
557 scheme (0.1%). In areas where transaction costs are not so high and the prevalence is
558 small patches from small farmers, individual schemes could achieve higher conservation
559 outcomes; while in critical areas with large farmers collective schemes might be more
560 suitable.

561

562 It should be kept in mind, however, that the effectiveness of PES is highly place-specific and
563 depends on the social norms prevalent in the communities. The analysis of the social
564 network characteristics and its interaction with PES incentives highlights the fact that the
565 adequacy and efficiency of a specific scheme partly depends on the social norms and
566 network characteristics of the area. In contexts where farmers are highly committed to what
567 his close network does as a whole, such as the case of our study area where the social
568 norm is the cultivation of oil palm, higher monetary incentives are required to compensate
569 the opportunity costs forgone for a crop such as oil palm.

570

571 The positive and significant effect of the social agroforestry network opens a door of
572 opportunities and strategies to promote pro-conservation behavior. Acknowledging that
573 financial resources are not always available to fully compensate farmers for not cultivating oil
574 palm, strategies based on the social context could complement the monetary incentives,
575 promoting good reputation, engaging with productive associations to encourage their
576 members to become more environmentally friendly can stimulate change in behavior. This
577 understanding is important in order to provide policymakers with key aspects when
578 designing PES, especially the messaging that monetary incentives are not a single solution
579 for such a complex problem, and that a holistic approach in defining strategies that
580 contemplates not only monetary aspects but also key features from the close social network
581 of the farmer can achieve a higher impact.

582

583 This study highlights how endowment heterogeneity and social network can affect the
584 success of PES schemes. Further research could analyze higher levels of PES under both
585 schemes, providing insights into the discussion of appropriateness of monetary incentives
586 aiming at reducing cultivation of high profitable crops. In addition, analysis comparing
587 monetary vs social incentives and the long-term effect could provide insights on which
588 strategies are more efficient, considering limited resources to finance monetary incentives.

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