

# 13th Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology

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**Session 12** "Environmental norms, mobility and biodiversity management in Amazonia"

## Land use strategies vs. environmental policies: the case of the Wayãpis and the Tekos in French Guiana

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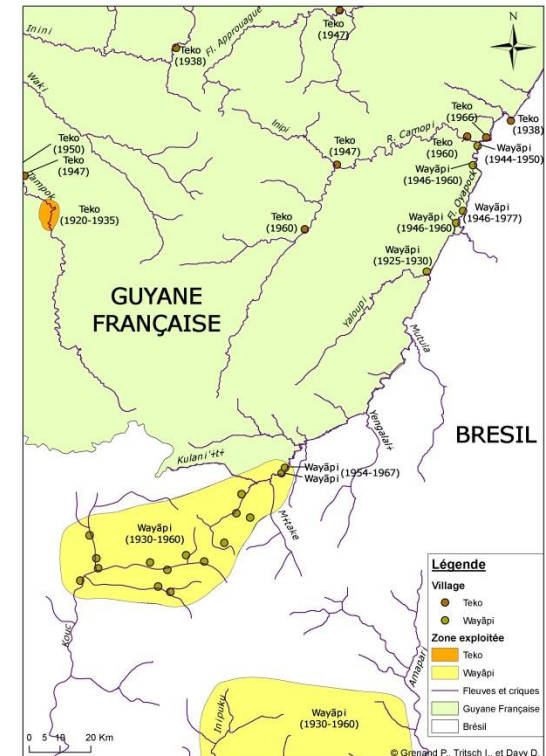
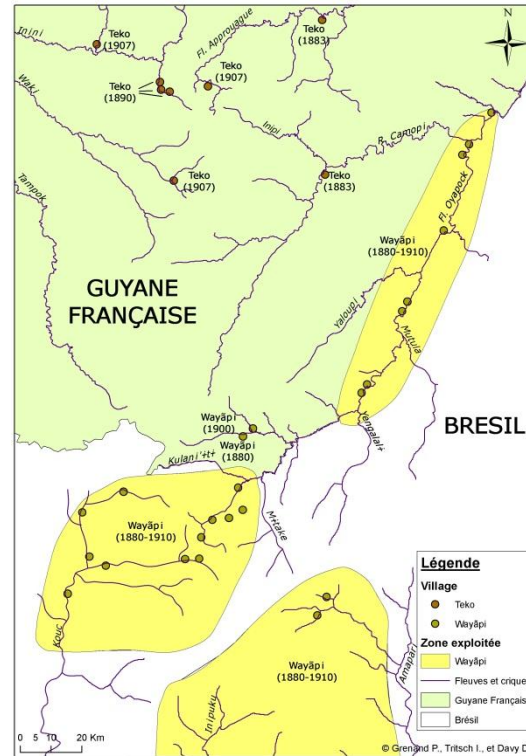
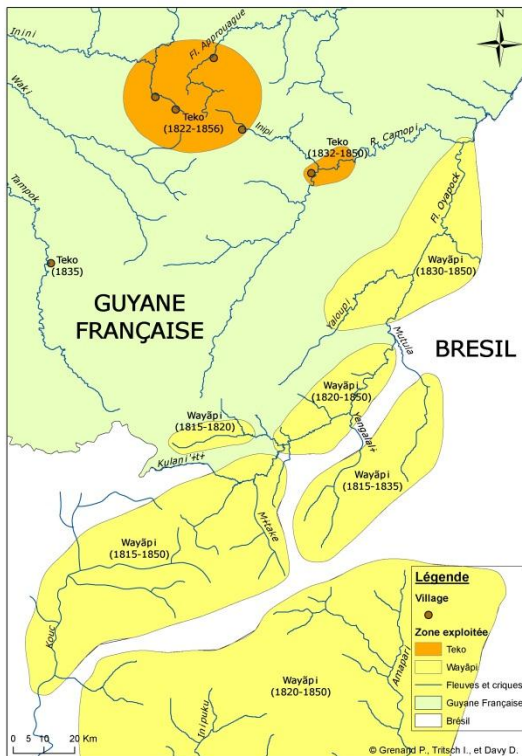
# PLAN

1. From historic territory to current territory structuration
2. New issues: environmental policies and territory reappropriation
3. Cross-border peoples and paradox of the territory management



# 1. From historic territory to current territory structuration

- ✓ Wayãpis and Tekos' territory: an historic construction
- ✓ Alternation of migration, territorial extension and contraction phases
- ✓ Demographic collapse



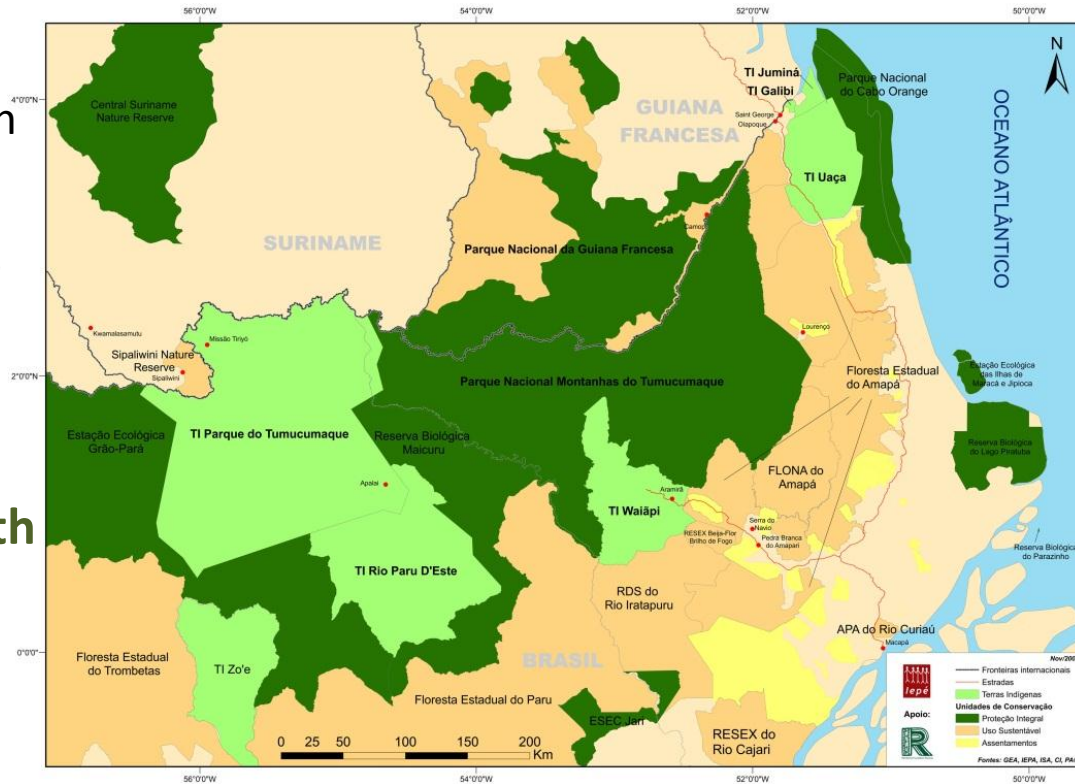


- ✓ 1950: Opening of the first French administration post. Beginning of the **current territory structuration**
  - Creation of the Camopi French municipality, 1969
  - Habitat concentration, settlement and “francisation” (Hurault, 1970)
  
- ✓ Some measures try to minimize the cultural shocks
  - Sanitary prefectural limit, 1970
  - Creation of **Collectives Uses Rights Zones**, ZDUC, 1987 (ministerial decree)

✓ Contemporary territorial issues:  
**preservation of the rain forest**

- *Parque Nacional Montanhas do Tumucumaque* (PNMT), 3.8 million hectares, 2002
- *Parc Amazonien de Guyane* (PAG), 3.3 millions hectares, 2007

✓ Context of **strong population growth**  
and **changes of the way of life**



Source : IEPE

What are the current territory  
restructuring ?

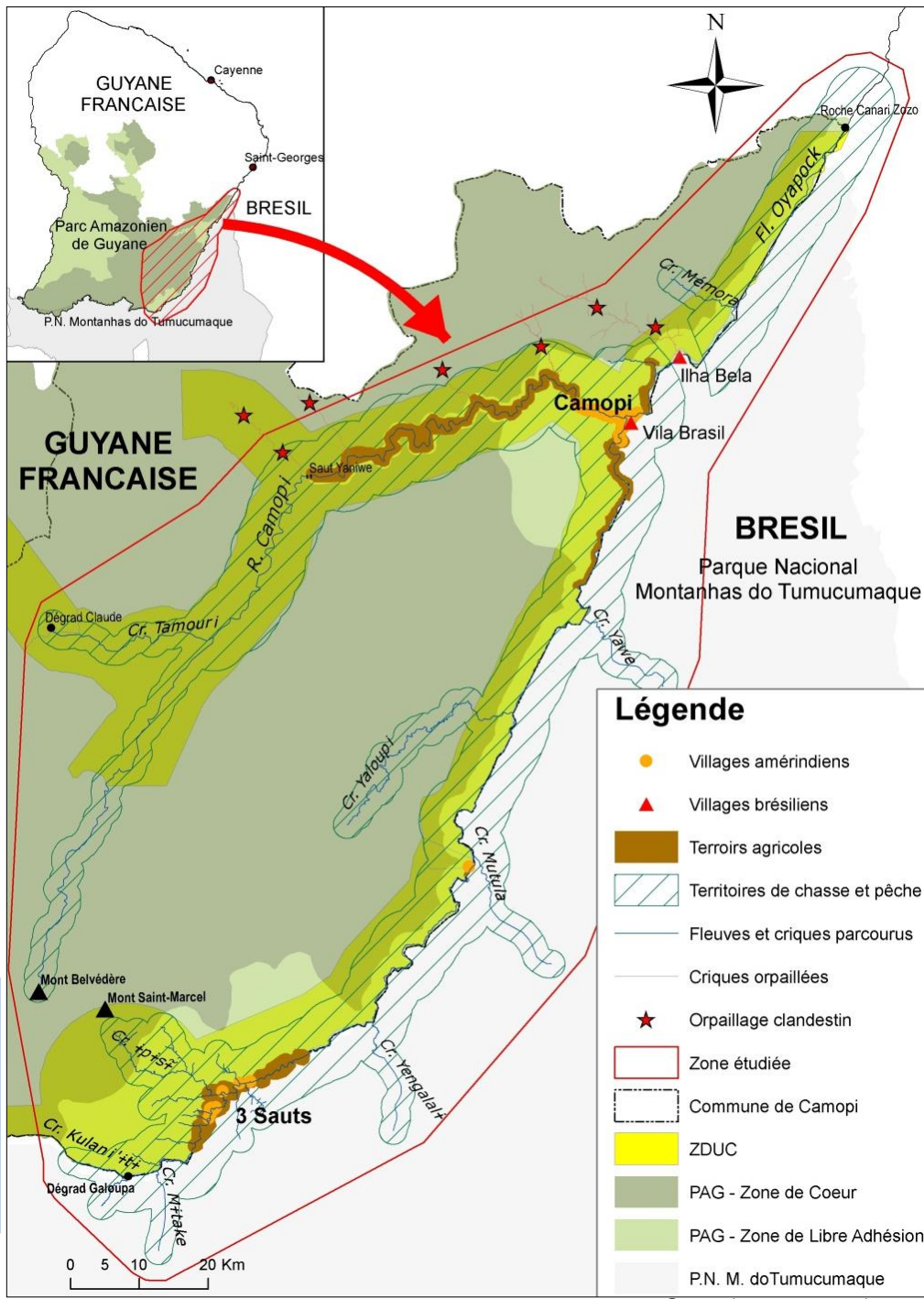
What is the role of the environmental  
policies in the land uses dynamics ?

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What are the current territory restructuration ?  
 What is the role of the environmental policies in the land uses dynamics ?



## 2. New issues: environmental policies and territory reappropriation

✓ **Strong dynamics of habitat dispersal:** 45 hamlets

✓ Production systems extension

- Structuration around agricultural camp
- Bi-locality of habitat and production systems
- Multi-functionality (swidden, hunting, fishing, extractivism)
- Organization according to relationship and alliance networks

➡ Important mobility of the families which maintain several complementary places of production

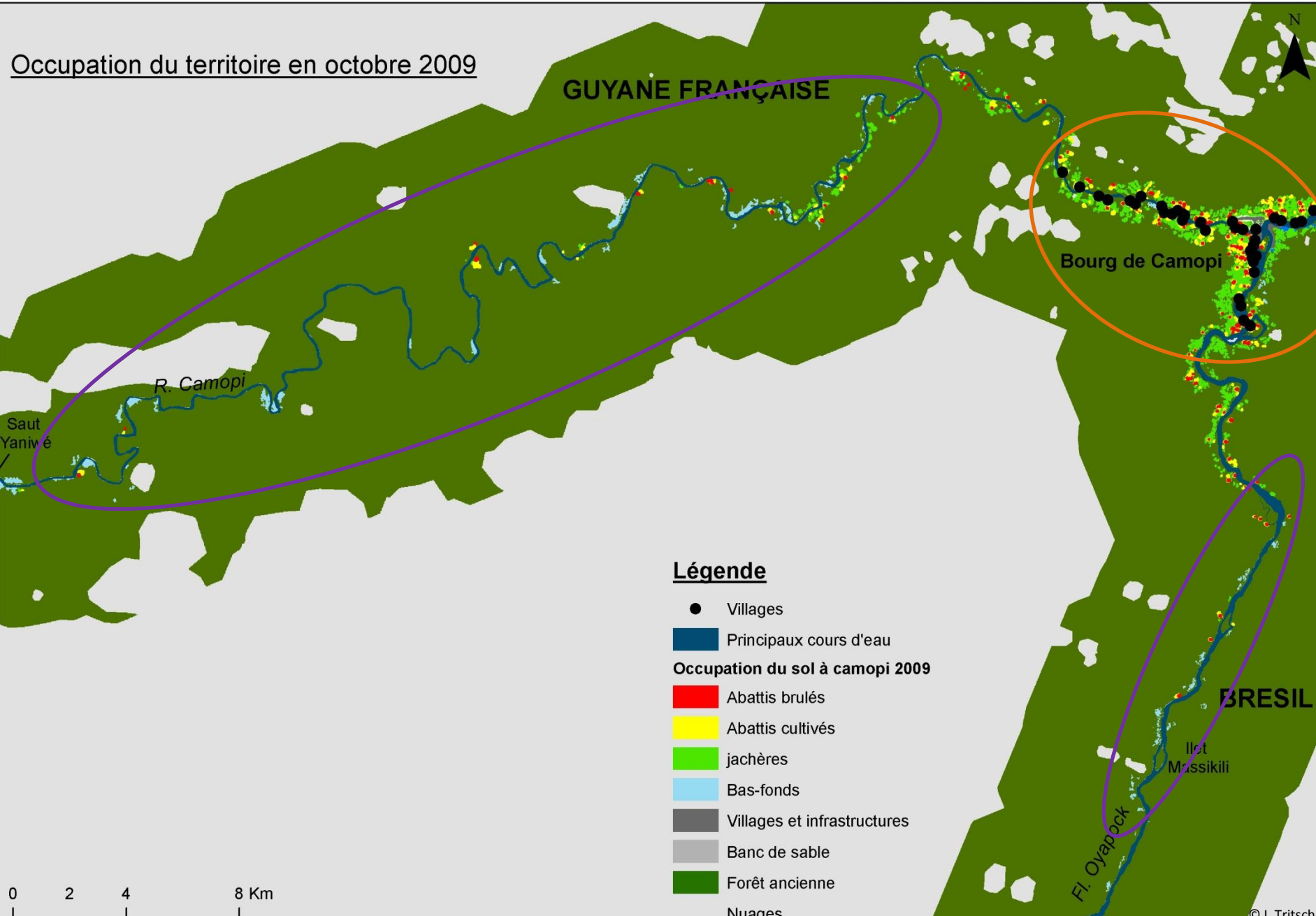
✓ Same dynamics in Camopi and 3 Sauts

	Camopi	3 Sauts
Inhabitant	1043	571
% of population living in the town	16%	10%
% of population living in the hamlets	84%	90%
Number of hamlets	33	12
Household travelling time to go to their field	Max : 263 Moy : 31	Max : 360 Moy : 30



# Agricultural pattern in the Camopi and Middle Oyapock River

Occupation du territoire en octobre 2009





# Environmental policies vs. Indigenous practices



Factors of the territory restructuration:

- ✓ **Subsistence activities**
- ✓ **Territorial claims:** to mark the territory occupancy  
Overlapping of various territorial zonings: the question of the natural resources and land use rights is the most sensitive
  - **Reappropriation of the ancestral territory** and process of **identity reaffirmation**
- ✓ Teko: ZDUC overlap and conflict with the “Core Zone” of the French National Park
- ✓ French Park National statutes guarantee the collectives uses rights for subsistence activities in the “Core Zone”
- ✓ **Misunderstanding**
- ✓ **Territorial governance conflicts (customary rights, indigenous municipality, National Park)**



### 3. Cross-border peoples and paradox of the territory management



- ✓ French and Brazil National Park: **antagonist vision of conservation**
- ✓ Brazil: prohibition of natural resources uses
  - ➡ Loss of a large part of the Wayãpis and Tekos territory

✓ **Paradox:** Vila Brasil and Ilha Bela, illegal gold miner settlement in a preservationist park vs. geopolitics Brazilian objectives of occupying their Amazonian frontiers



# Conclusion

- Land use change dynamics: toward an extensification of the system
  - Important territorial reappropriation (subsistence and political strategies)
  - Territorial governance conflicts with National Park
  - Crucial role of the border (no collateral collaboration)
- ➡ Environmental policies as an identity and territorial claims catalyzer



# Thanks for your attention

