

AMIDST FOOD RESERVE AND CARBON SINKS

AN ETHNOGRAPHY OF DEGRADED FORESTS IN QUEBEC

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CONTEXT

-In the province of Quebec (QC), **the socio-economic and environmental relationships** of local communities with the forest have historically been influenced by industrial extraction activities, the instability of timber markets and the degradation of overexploited forests.

-This context invites us to reflect on other ways to enhance the value of wooded and deforested areas in QC. Creators of **FF** and **CCR** projects are engaged in approaches intended to regenerate degraded forest areas near communities.

QUESTION

How do local initiatives developing non timber forests projects build new social relationships to forest spaces in Quebec?

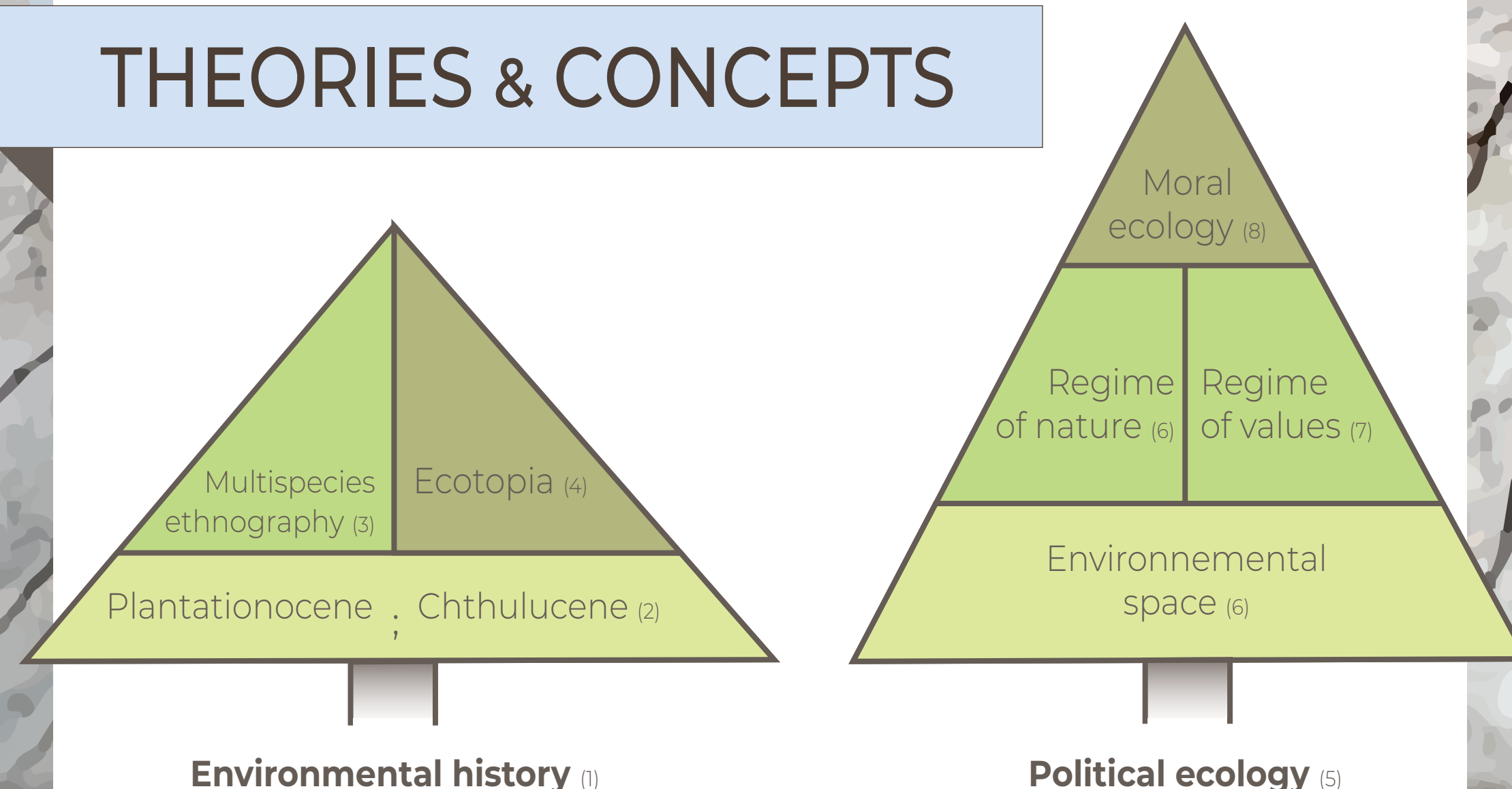
OBJECTIVES

- 1) Document historic, politic and environmental contexts of **FF** and **CCR** projects
- 2) Investigate power relations and their negotiations related to the creation and development of projects
- 3) Understand how forest spaces are constructed

METHODOLOGY

-Documentary research | Semi-directed interviews (n = 90)
-Multisites ethnography in Bas-Saint-Laurent (**FF**) + QC regions (**CCR**)

THEORIES & CONCEPTS



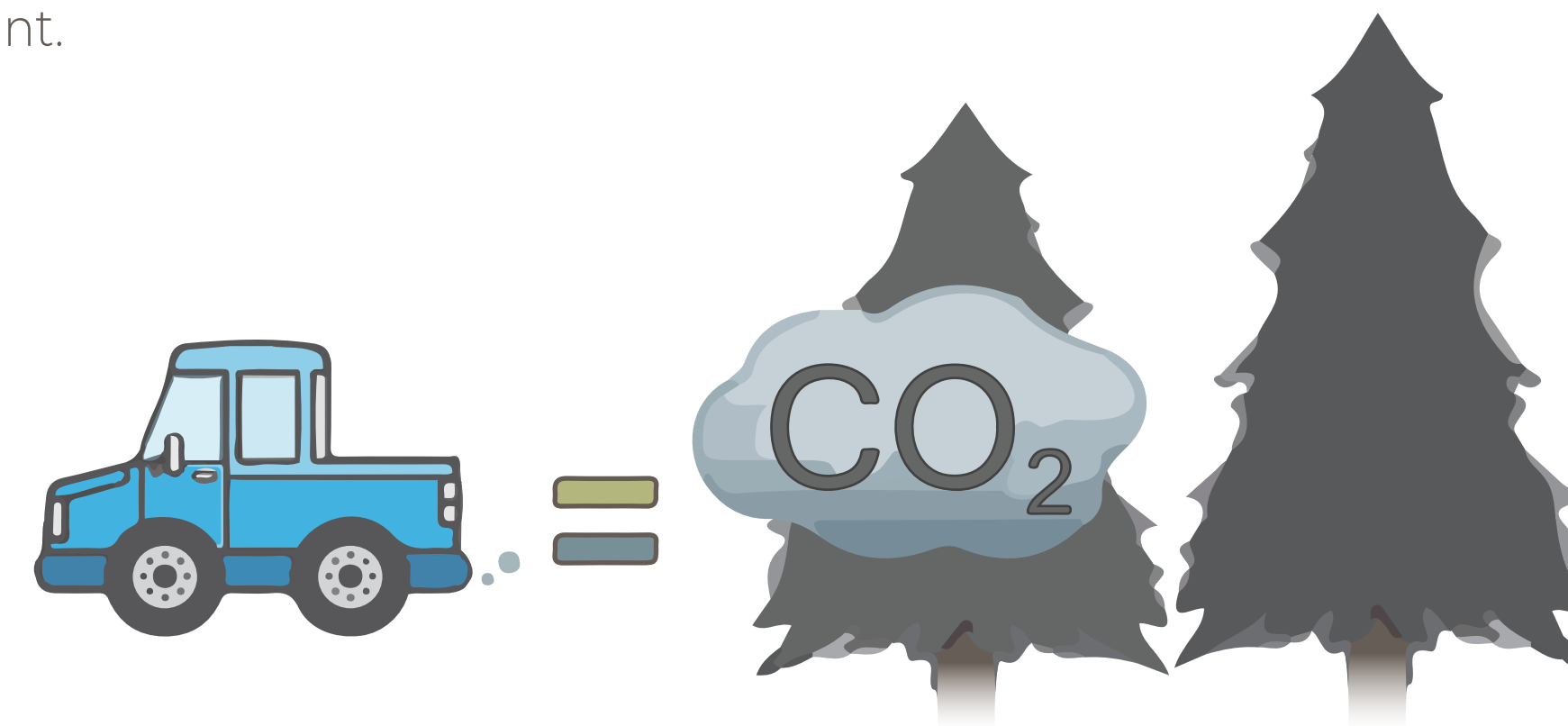
A food forest (FF)

is a cultivated garden designed to copy the ecological systems of established forests by using permaculture principles. It includes edible, perennial and multi-purpose trees, shrubs and herbs which are placed in order to create a productive ecosystem.



The climate change reforestation (CCR)

is a practice consisting of planting trees for their capacity of absorbing carbon dioxide. It is associated with a monetize and voluntary service of GHG emissions compensation. People can purchase carbon credits or trees to plant.



Ties between FF and CCR projects: Creation of multifunctional agroforestry systems. Leaders of projects are interested in the cultivation of forest products, other than wood (medicinal plants, fruits, forest carbon, etc.).

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION

Ways to enhance the socio-environmental values of forest spaces

- Circulation of environmental knowledge
- Caring relations between humans and plants
- Education

Creation of exemplary spaces
Cultivating the future takes time

DISCUSSION (FF)

- 1) It's a Millennial old polyculture method used in tropical regions, adapted to temperate locations in the 1970s by Robert Hart in the UK. Recent arrival in QC (≈15 years) and in Bas-Saint-Laurent (5 to 10 years).
- 2) Requires transmission of environmental knowledge, from experts to **FF** owners. Experts salaries combined with the purchase of plants requires cash investment. Are there funding resources?
- 3) Gardening like the forest or gardening in the forest? Negotiation of human interventions accepted in a **FF**. Importance given to the creation of a space of collaboration that can feed humans, soil and wildlife.

DISCUSSION (CCR)

- 1) There are few forest projects (FP) in mandatory and voluntary carbon markets. In QC, some voluntary participants of the carbon market multiply FP in tropic regions and in QC (≈10 years). The SPEDE (*) is in the process of including FP.
- 2) In the public space, discourses on the benefits of **CCR** are confronted with those questioning the scientific validity of carbon offsets, especially by reforestation, in the fight against climate change.
- 3) Forest conservation is ensured by legal agreement, awareness or call to community commitment. Reforested sites meet the needs of landowners, communities living nearby and individuals offsetting their GHG emissions.

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