

SLOW VIOLENCE & CORPORATE GREENING in the war on drugs in Colombia

Presentation for the Wilson Centre
By Irene Vélez-Torres

Based on an article written
in co-authorship with Diego Lugo

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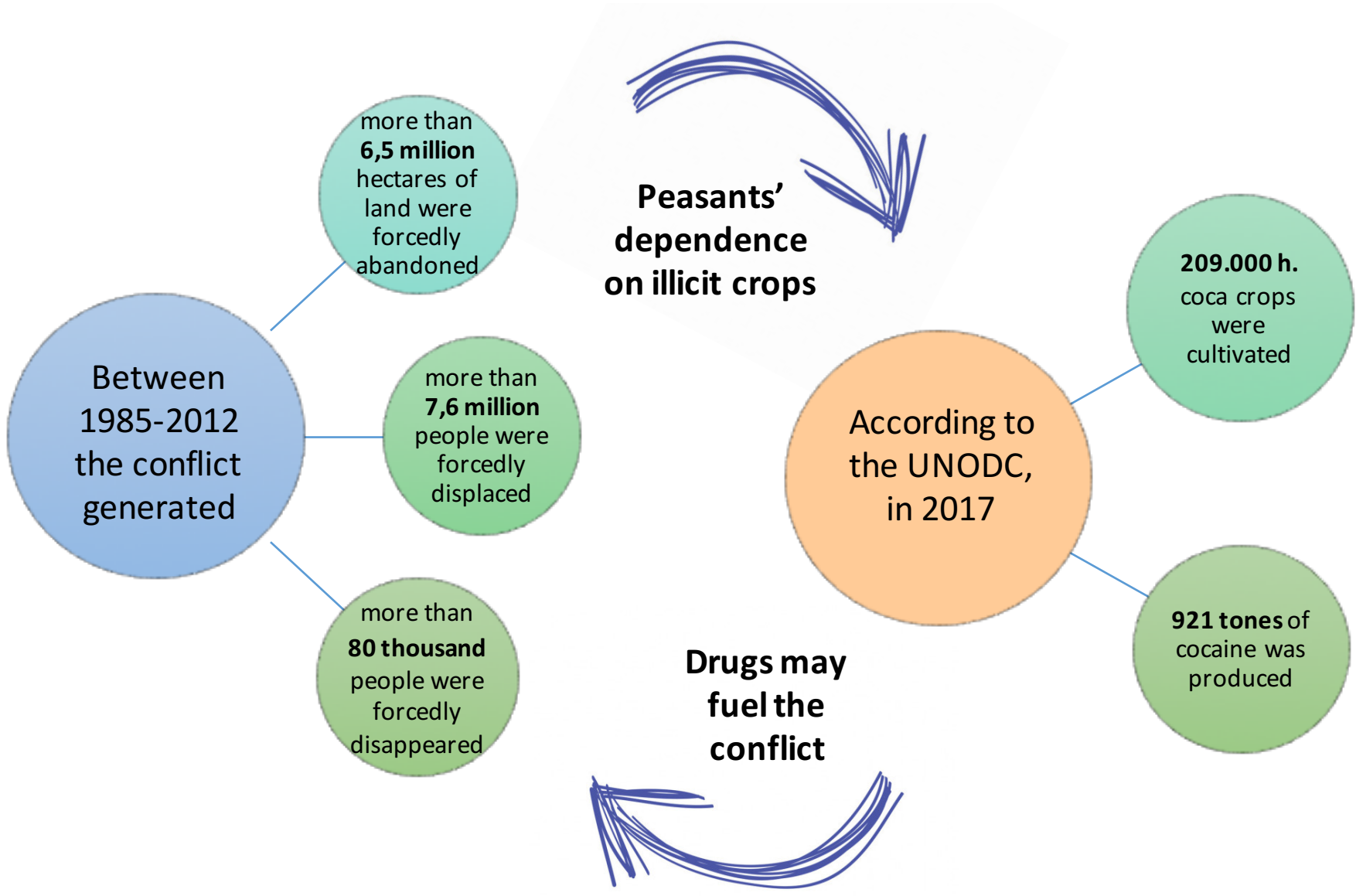




ORDER OF PRESENTATION

1. The context of conflict & coca
2. The central research questions
3. The conceptual perspective
4. Methodology & findings

1. The context of conflict (and coca)

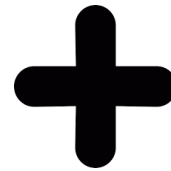


1. The context (of conflict) and coca

**Peace Agreement
(2016)**



Chapter 4 on illicit drugs:
new perspective based on
rural development

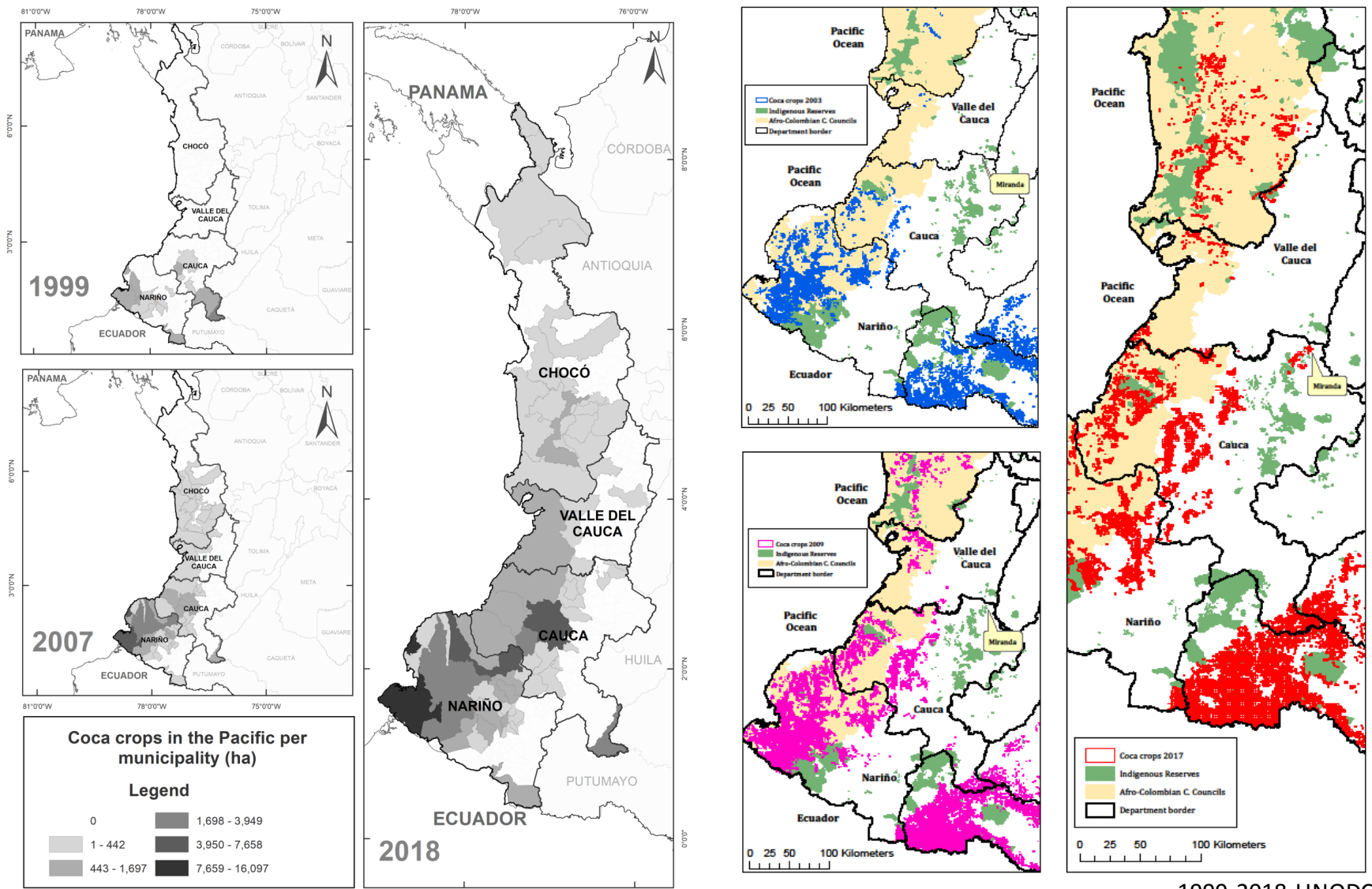


**Chapter 1 on agrarian
reform:** aimed to secure
land access & formalization



**PNIS: 99 thousand coca peasants
to substitute 60 thousand ha.**

1. The context (of conflict) and coca



1999-2018 UNODC

2. Research Questions

Is it possible to contribute to **environmental peacebuilding** and **political stability** without reconstructing **land-ownership** relations or the local **agro-export** production model?

Can a **corporate-led substitution** model reinforce regressive wealth distribution systems and enforce slow violence in **impoverished and vulnerable communities**?



3. Navigating the key concepts

State-led corporate greening. Refers to the state efforts to control contested resource frontiers and promote green enterprise, with the intention of engineering 'peaceful and legalized' territories where corporate capital is prioritized. While companies are seen by the state as an ideal path to accelerate the transition from war landscapes and illicit activities to legal geographies for exploitation, vulnerability is added to minorities, victims, and vulnerable groups.

In the Colombian aftermath of the conflict with the FARC-EP guerrilla, the most important agricultural products for this conversion have been Haas-avocado, Sacha-Inchi, Cacao and Coffee, all inserted in transnational food/flexible commodity chains. The emerging threat of dispossession risks to worse armed and environmental violence.

Slow violence. Refers to mechanisms of everyday dispossession that, intentionally or not, generate a subtle and prolonged decomposition of biological and social life. It includes socio-ecological damage resulting from toxic exposure and the progressive deterioration of living conditions resulting from interventions that systematically degrade the quality of the environment (water, soil and air).

In this research, we employ the concept of slow violence to explain the socio-ecological effects that arise from contamination by forced eradication through aerial spraying with glyphosate and the erosion of soils that results from failed processes of substitution of illicit crops.



4. Methodology and findings

Methodology

2017 – 2020

- Ethnographic fieldwork visits in North Cauca (Miranda & Corinto)
- Dialogues with coca and marijuana growers
- Meetings with state officers

The Miranda story

- 0 ha. of new land
- 0 ha. formalized of already accessed land
- 0 \$ for agricultural projects
- 0 marijuana growers included
- 0 coca-pickers included

Final Remarks

False promises of transition

- Growing impoverishment
- Progressive erosion in areas of eradication
 - Monocultures & commoditized agriculture
- No respect for traditional livelihoods, food autonomy & sovereignty





Thank you!

irene.velez@correounivalle.edu.co



<http://pazaltocauca.net/>



With gratitude to the coca growers from the north Cauca region, who shared their experiences of conflict, peacemaking and resistance with me and the Paz Alto Cauca team.

