Farming the wind, mapping controversies: Indigenous resistance to the production of wind as a valuable commodity in southern Mexico

2. UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Indigenous groups opposing wind farms in the Isthmus describe how existing wind farming infrastructures (the assemblages of turbines, transmission lines, substations) have dispossessed indigenous communities of lands and new farms threaten to restrict their access to coastal fisheries. Few benefits are forthcoming, whether in the form of equitable rents (for access to private, communal or ejidal lands), community access to low cost electricity or, long-term dignified employment opportunities.

DATA—NATURE AND ORIGIN

Secondary materials include policy documents, legal analyses, industry authored project descriptions (EIAs), CDM registration documentation and media reports from local, state, national and independent media. Wind data was downloaded from the NREL. Secondary data was tabulated (in excel) and incorporated into a new shapefile. Socioeconomic data at state and municipal scales was accessed from INEGI. This data was cleaned in excel and joined to an existing state shapefile. Electricity sales were used as a proxy for electricity consumption.

3. CONCLUSIONS

In the Isthmus, indigenous peoples are making claims to land, territory and self-determination. Though diverse, these claims appear to share a common cause: they are contesting the material consequences and ideological meanings of wind as commodity, the historical and geographical processes that have made this commodification possible and the ways in which the new 'wind energy' landscape is exacerbating existing structural inequalities.

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