Processes and advances in Co-governance: Coastal and Marine Extractive Reserves of Brazil

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▪ Scope and research questions

Marine Extractive Reserves (MERs) are a socially inclusive territorial and governance model for MPA, which may encompass land and aquatic ecosystems and traditional populations. MERs are considered important initiatives to reconcile environmental conservation with the social and economic inclusion of people who were impacted by no-take MPAs.

MERS aims to protect the livelihoods and the culture of small-scale fishery communities, ensuring the sustainable use of coastal natural resources and should be based on **COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE** among government, other partners and communities. Based on that, we are investigating:

1 Which are the co-governance instruments being used in MERs? How the implementation of the institutional framework has been conducted on the ground?

2 In the cases of communities more "empowered" into co-management process, which are key factors explaining these governance advances?
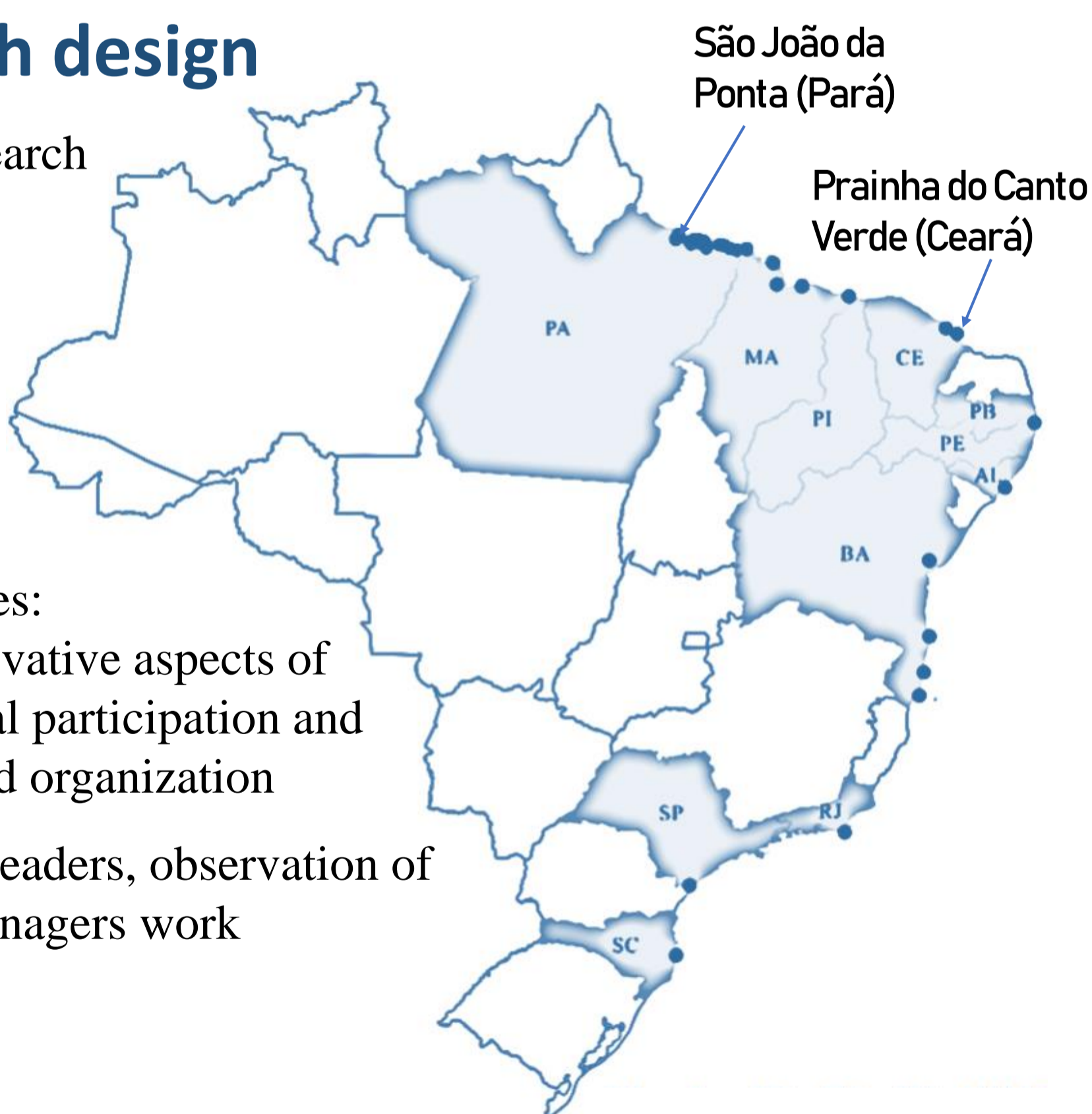
▪ Research design

- Qualitative Research

- Semi-structured interviews with local managers from 21 MERs

- Two Case-studies:
Which show innovative aspects of governance, social participation and Community-based organization

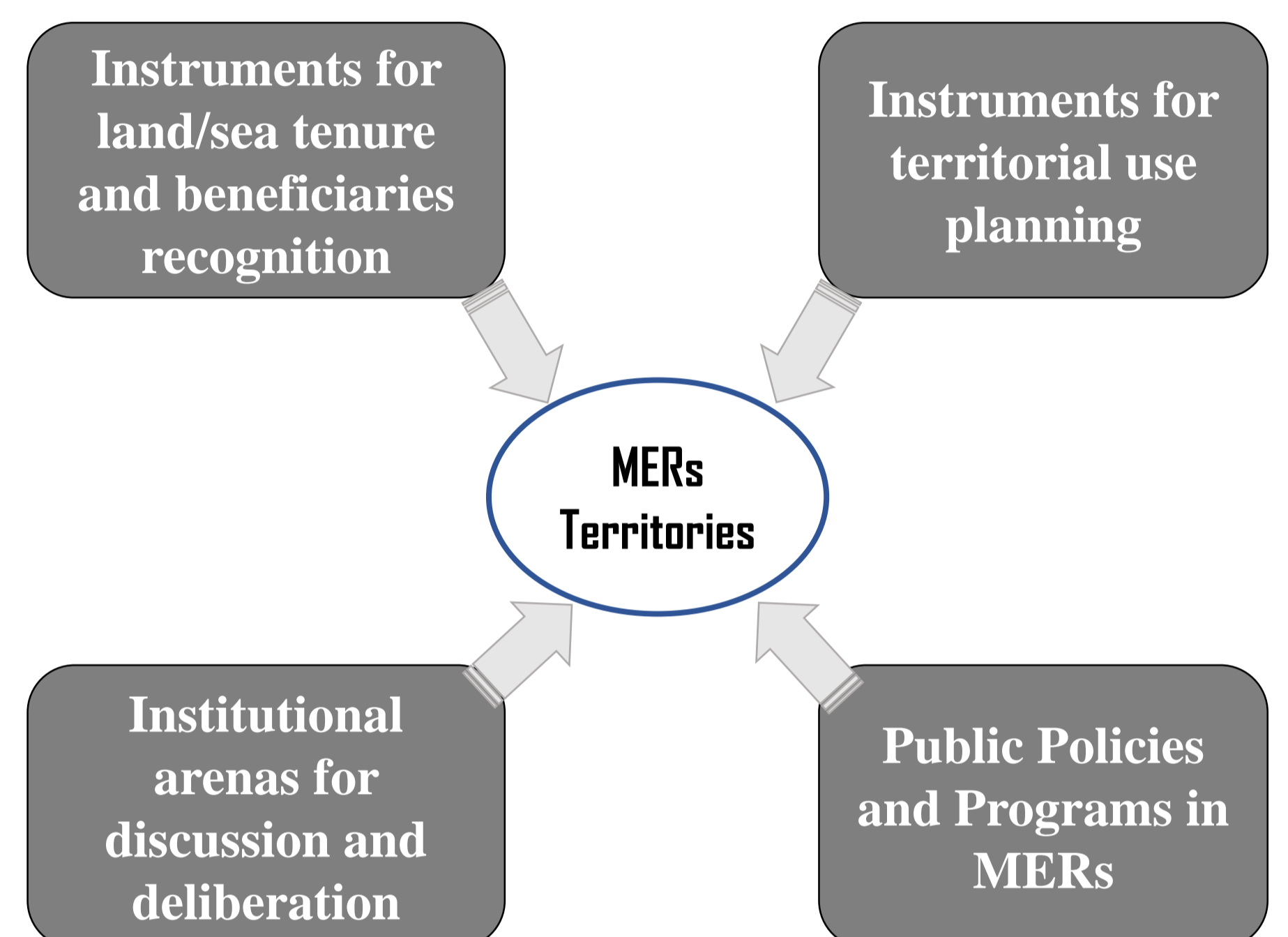Interviews with leaders, observation of meetings and managers work

São João da Ponta (Pará)

Prainha do Canto Verde (Ceará)

PA
MA
CE
PI
PB
PE
Al
BA
SP
RJ
SC

Distribution of MERs (n=28) in Brazil

▪ What have we found so far?

Institutional Complexity of MERs Governance

Instruments for land/sea tenure and beneficiaries recognition

Instruments for territorial use planning

MERs Territories

Institutional arenas for discussion and deliberation

Public Policies and Programs in MERs

The implementation of MERs in Brazil has evolved from a territorial model to a complex set of 9 formalized governance instruments, translated into administrative laws and procedures.

The drama of managing MERs: The voice of local managers

Everyday life	*Organizational*	*Structural*
Social organization and engagement of communities	Lack of a clear institutional position about governance subjects on ICMBio	Infrastructure Staff Financial resources
Local conflicts over resources use		
Real state pressures, land tenure conflicts and the large companies impacts from different sectors	Great bureaucracy and the centralized work at the headquarter in Brasília	Brazilian priorities for socioenvironmental public policies
Licensing processes		Public budgets in Brazil as a result of political processes and political contexts
Local politics		
Stress and overworking		

Key Factors

- Step Zero and what precedes pre-implementation
- Managers profile into sharing power
- Community indentity and sense of place
- Emancipatory partnership – Capacity Building for autonomy and political engagement
- The notion of Commons by traditional populations
- Environmental Citzenship

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