

MEXICO

Mitigating Climate Change Through Sustainable Forest Management in the Southern States of Mexico



The designations employed and the presentation of the material in the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries, or the authorities thereof.

ISSUES

Although the rate of deforestation in Mexico has decreased in recent years, national forests are undergoing a continuous process of deforestation and degradation. Data¹ from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) show that in 2010, Mexico had 64.8 million hectares of forests, with an annual loss of 155,200 hectares (0.23 per cent). Between 2002 and 2007, 62 per cent of areas with forest cover were lost or altered in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor across Campeche, Chiapas and Oaxaca states. Deforestation in the southern states is primarily driven by land use change, housing developments, anthropogenic forest fires and pests. These phenomena are particularly harmful since the Southern and South-Eastern parts of Mexico have the highest amount of biodiversity. In addition, the forestry sector in Mexico contributes 10 per cent of national greenhouse gas emissions. There is an important potential for carbon sequestration in forest ecosystems which store high densities of carbon per unit area. Sustainable forest management, forest regeneration, forest plantations and agroforestry systems all play a vital role in removing carbon at the regional or landscape level.

ACTIONS

The project objective is to strengthen sustainable forest management in the project area and develop local capabilities, leading to the reduction of carbon emissions from deforestation and the increase of carbon sequestration through the financing of initiatives for the most vulnerable. Project operations are focused in 25 municipalities, in which 83 per cent of the population are indigenous peoples. The project comprises two main components:

1 FAO. 2010. Evaluation of Global Forest Resources 2010 National Report for Mexico. Forestry Department. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. FRA2010/132 Rome. 98p. www.fao.org/forestry/fra



The Global Environment Facility (GEF) brings together 183 countries, the private sector, civil society organizations and international institutions to address global environmental problems. The GEF-IFAD partnership promotes win-win solutions to deliver both global environmental benefits as well as significant gains for rural poor people.



PROJECT SUMMARY

Total cost: US\$18.5 m

Approved IFAD loan:
US\$5 m

GEF: US\$5 m

Other contributions:
Government of Mexico
US\$7 m; Beneficiaries
US\$1.5 m

Project period:
5 years (2011-2016)

Executing agency:
National Forestry Commission of
Mexico (CONAFOR)

GEF beneficiaries: 678,435

Project objective: Improve living conditions of poor and extremely poor people living in forest areas of Campeche, Chiapas and Oaxaca states through the development of sustainable and environmentally sound productive activities.

Strengthening of organizational, planning, local management and climate change mitigation capacities.

GEF funds are directed at developing local actors' capabilities to: i) raise awareness for mitigation of climate change impacts; ii) employ relevant monitoring techniques and tools to measure carbon sequestration (satellite geo-positioning systems, aerial photographs and other electronic display techniques, together with training in periodic measuring systems of carbon stocks at field level); and iii) improve management of their natural resources (agro-forestry management practices, monitoring and supervision activities, and report preparation and dissemination).

Invest in forestry projects and initiatives for carbon sequestration through the financing of forestry and agro-forestry activities. Pilot projects will prove innovative forest management experiences to maximize carbon sequestration and better use natural resources, generating lessons that contribute to their scaling-up. The component will contribute to: i) identifying areas with potential for carbon sequestration; ii) investing in selected sites; and iii) guaranteeing protection and survival of the forest cover and the maintenance of carbon sequestration in the long term, through the development and adoption of better forest management techniques.

EXPECTED IMPACTS

Strengthening of organizational, planning, local management and climate change mitigation capacities.

Under this component, the project is meeting the following targets:

- 75 organizations formulated local development plans.
- At least 20 per cent of those organizations implement best practices for adaptation and mitigation of climate change.
- 35 community workers (10 per cent women) trained in natural resources management.
- 10 service providers (associations, NGOs, universities, etc.) have improved capabilities in business development oriented to serve the rural poor.

- At least 6 brigades trained, including 4 community technicians, each of them to implement mitigation actions and monitoring.
- 36 workshops developed on natural resources management and climate change.
- 1,080 people trained (25 per cent women) in natural resources management or adaptation to climate change

Forestry projects and initiatives for carbon sequestration.

Under this component, the project is meeting the following targets:

- 50 per cent of organizations (10 per cent led by women) have adopted practices that improve their business management skills.
- 20 business plans implemented by women have increased sales (in US dollars) by 10 per cent.
- In the project area, 70 per cent of the total volume of CO² compared to the baseline is maintained.
- At least 1,000,000 seedlings of native and naturalized species produced in established community nurseries to remove greenhouse gases.

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