



Alianza
MéxicoREDD+
Con la gente por sus bosques



REDD+ IN CHIHUAHUA

AN ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

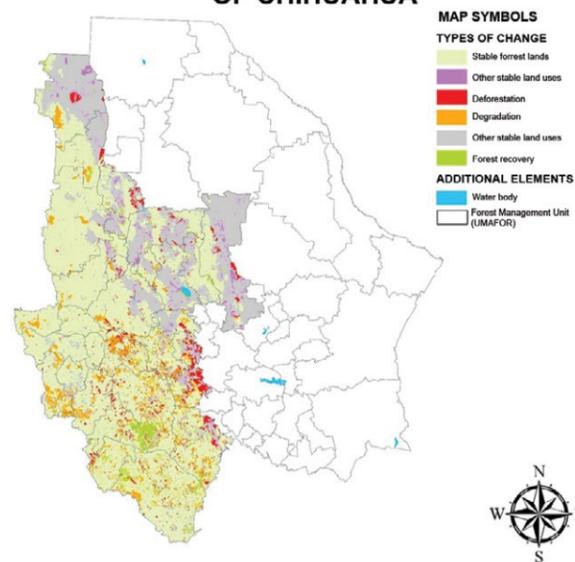


Chihuahua: an alliance for sustainable forest management

Thanks to its great forest wealth and forestry production, Chihuahua is one of the country's most important forest states. It is characterized by a strong tradition of community forest management that allows responsible use and conservation throughout its wooded area.

However, state forests have been reduced by 9.7 percent and, year after year, a significant part is altered or degraded by productive activities that don't follow sustainable patterns, such as ranching, conventional agriculture, and logging. The consequences: soil infertility, loss of biodiversity and environmental services, emission of greenhouse gases, and changes in weather patterns in the affected areas.

DIAGNOSIS ON THE DETERMINING FACTORS OF DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION IN PRIORITY AREAS OF CHIHUAHUA



Determining deforestation and degradation factors in priority areas of Chihuahua

To contain this situation, the Mexico REDD+ Program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), along with various actors in Chihuahua, defined a common strategy that opens up an area of opportunity to mobilize efforts, resources, and actions to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the state.

We promoted the establishment of agricultural and forestry practices to intensify and diversify production, while preserving natural wealth and successfully confronting climate change.



Sierra. Ejido Humariza, Chihuahua

Main REDD+ achievements in Chihuahua:

-  Engagement of various actors with forest management and the REDD+ initiatives
-  Establishing REDD+ participation platforms
-  Collective development of the REDD+ State Strategy and its adoption by State government agencies in the environmental and forestry sectors
-  We provided advice and contributed to the state regulations on climate change and sustainable forest development proposals
-  We established sustainable and profitable productive projects suitable for the region in over 600 hectares
-  We developed protocols for quantifying and reporting sustainable forest management in the state
-  We performed studies for improving decision-making including: Identifying causes of deforestation and diagnosing funds and useful financial instruments for sustainable rural development
-  Adoption of an Integrated Pest Management Strategy, which promotes the implementation of preventive, control or suppressive measures and tactics

Building an alliance based on conviction and determination to strengthen sustainable forest management

We supported the creation of interdisciplinary groups and raised a common understanding around REDD+ in the state of Chihuahua.

Together with the Mexico REDD+ Program, government and academic institutions, civil society, local communities, ejidos, and farmers, we developed the REDD+ State Strategy that aligns various efforts and strategies that promote and strengthen sustainable rural development in the state and contribute to the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

We formed and strengthened coordination and collaboration spaces such as REDD+ Technical Advisory Committee, which operates within the framework of the State Forestry Council (CEF by its initials in Spanish), one of the most important platforms in the state, and one that is nationally recognized. Thus, we promoted the inclusion of REDD+ on the state's forest policy agenda.

In order to build a base from which it is possible to promote and monitor public policy related to REDD+ in the state, we provided inputs and technical contributions that strengthen the reform to the General Law on Forest Development, as well as the Law on Climate Change of Chihuahua.

We promoted and facilitated the formation of working groups, councils, and learning communities, which enabled the development and strengthening of the capacities of the people involved and supported the development process of the subnational REDD+ model in Chihuahua.

Capacity building

-  We developed capabilities in communities, organizations, universities, and state government agencies on REDD+
-  We offered more than 60 workshops and courses through which we trained 1,080 men and 280 women
-  We created and strengthened a REDD+ learning community in which different actors from the state government, civil society organizations, academia and research sectors, and local producers converge
-  We assisted the institutional creation process of the MRV State Technical Group by strengthening technical capabilities.
-  We designed a prototype module for forest monitoring, in response to the information needs of the State Forestry Council, and aligned it to the MRV national system

Fire management training Guachochi, Chihuahua



Mitigate climate change, produce, and preserve

We work with ejidos to identify the main environmental and social problems of the area and set up an action plan with measurable goals in the short, medium, and long term.

In order to establish productive activities that are more profitable, hold off the encroachment of the agricultural frontier, and preserve forests, we developed silvopastoral projects in the Humariza ejido, in the municipality of Nonoava, and sustainable forest management projects in the Aboreachi ejido, in the municipality of Guachochi; in the Turuachi River Basin, in the ejidos of Chinatú, El Nopal, La Catedral, and La Trinidad, in the municipality of Guadalupe y Calvo.

With silvopastoral projects, we improved pasture management in more than 600 hectares and incorporated soil conservation activities to have deforestation-free livestock.



Forest nursery in Guachochi, Chihuahua

Within the sustainable forest management projects, we provided support in the planning and management of four hectares intended as permanent forest monitoring plots, with the aim of gathering information on the response of different silvicultural treatments applied. In addition, we improved forest management and restoration practices that have an indirect impact in over 56,000 hectares of forests.

With these actions, we showed it is possible to increase productivity and significantly reduce costs, while preserving forests and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Two models for sustainable production and conservation:



Silvopastoral Model
Region: Ejido Humariza, Nonoava Municipality. 600 hectares directly impacted. 86 farmers and their families benefited directly



Sustainable forest management model
Regions: Ejido Aboreachi. Turuachi River Basin, Ejido Chinatú. Ejido El Nopal, Ejido La Catedral and Ejido La Trinidad, municipality of Guadalupe y Calvo. 2,300 hectares directly affected. More than 200 farmers and their families benefited directly

Skills and tools to drive change

We promoted and facilitated the participation of producers and organizations in productive projects through the development of protocols and the use of participatory planning methodologies. We strengthened capacities in organizations and producers to improve forest-use practices, restoration of degraded and deforested land, and the control and combat of pests and fires.

Steps to follow in community projects:

- Promote a sustainable environmental and forest culture in the community
- Strengthen community organization
- Sustainable and integrated forest management
- Diversification of income sources
- Reduction of forest fires



Ana María Olivero
Grupo Integral de Servicios Ecosistémicos Eye Kawi
Chihuahua

"It's thanks to the Mexico REDD+ Program that the government has been able to take the first steps towards the creation of a State Strategy and research projects on pest, deforestation, and degradation. The role of the Alliance has been crucial in the adoption of these processes by government agencies and the state's productive sector. "

Training for farmers Guachochi, Chihuahua



Generate local data for sustainable forest management

The Mexico REDD+ Program in collaboration with ejido assemblies and authorities, civil society organizations, and young people from the local communities, assisted in the development of a strategy for community monitoring of forest resources in the areas of REDD+ productive projects to know the real situation of forests and identify which practices allow strengthen comprehensive management of land use.

We developed technical capacities for community monitoring of biomass with young people from the ejidos and provided technological tools for communities to generate and analyze data on the condition and status of their forests, strengthening governance and decision-making on the management of their forest resources.



Measuring tree growth in Guachochi, Chihuahua

Roads and paths

We articulated and gave renewed impetus to sustainable forest management experiences and promoted the integrated management of the territory in Chihuahua.

In this way, we created proper conditions for the adoption of the REDD+ mechanism in the state and opened a path that has shown its viability and effectiveness in reducing deforestation and forest degradation through sustainable forest management that increases production and faces climate change successfully.



Benito Herrera
Technical staff FORMAC, Humariza Ejido,
Nonoava Municipality
Chihuahua

"We are not going to teach producers, we will not tell them how to do their job. What we do is provide them the tools to do so more easily, cheaper, and with better results. Now people say, 'We have to divide our pastureland even more, we must concentrate all our cattle in one area of our 9,000 hectares and then do the same with the rest of the pasturelands.' This is a very fragile area... and if we do not take care of the soil, we won't have nor forest nor grass, which are farmers' main resources."



Forest harvesting area in Guachochi, Chihuahua



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