



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY STRATEGY FOR BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING

Forestry Sector (2016-2022)

MÉXICO
GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA



SEMARNAT
SECRETARÍA DE
MEDIO AMBIENTE
Y RECURSOS NATURALES



INTRODUCTION

In recent years, forest ecosystems have had an increased importance and recognition for their contribution to the mitigation and adaptation strategies on the impact of climate change and its key role for all living beings welfare, and to country development thanks to the environmental services and products they generate.

For the forestry sector, biodiversity is a crosscutting theme in legal instruments and domestic planning. That is the case of the General Act on Sustainable Forestry Development and the 2013-2018 National Forestry Program, which set sustainable forestry development as a reliable base to safeguard the supply of a wide range of ecological services, and explicitly acknowledge the value and importance of biodiversity.

In this regard, Mexico has stood out historically for community silvicultural management contributing to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity, since a great part of forestry ecosystems is in collective property (communal land and communities). This situation enables the forestry sector to implement comprehensive strategies on biodiversity conservation and development of indigenous communities, communal lands and rural families.

Undoubtedly, one major challenge for the forestry sector is ensuring that next generations have the forestry resources and biodiversity they need for their well-being and development. As such, a key issue for the Forestry National Program is to integrate biodiversity in its planning frame, strategies and course of actions, contributing to fulfill the commitments set in the Convention on Biological Diversity, Aichi Goals and the Agenda 2030 of Sustainable Development Objectives.

The National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) strives for the harmonization of forestry management with biodiversity conservation through diverse actions, such as the implementation

of the 2013-2018 Sustainable Forest Management National Strategy for Increasing Production and Productivity (ENAIPROS). Other actions are the active conservation of ecosystems of high conservation value through the Payment for Environmental Services and the comprehensive restoration of ecosystems with native species and a productive approach. Similarly, the preservation and improvement of forestry genetic resources is considered, in conjunction with the National Institute for Forestry, Agricultural and Livestock Research (INIFAP), and the National Monitoring System of Biodiversity is implemented, product of an inter-institutional collaboration.

To these achievements, we have to add a strategy for the generation of domestic capacity through the development of innovative knowledge products, as the handbook of best management practices for the conservation of biodiversity, the guide for characterization and classification of forestry habitats and criteria for biodiversity conservation in the forestry management programs, among others. These represent substantial progress for Biodiversity mainstreaming in the forestry sector.

According to this, the Strategy for Biodiversity Mainstreaming in the Forestry Sector (2016-2022) seeks to maintain and increase the efforts to incorporate biodiversity criteria in productive activities, restoration, protection and conservation, which still pose great challenges and areas of opportunity in this regard.

This highlights the need of a planning tool which can help to guide ongoing efforts, to acknowledge the things to be done and support decision-making to move towards to a vision in which Mexican Forestry Sector will be a clear generator of wealth for the country, an increasingly larger provider of environmental services and a permanent guardian of our biological richness.

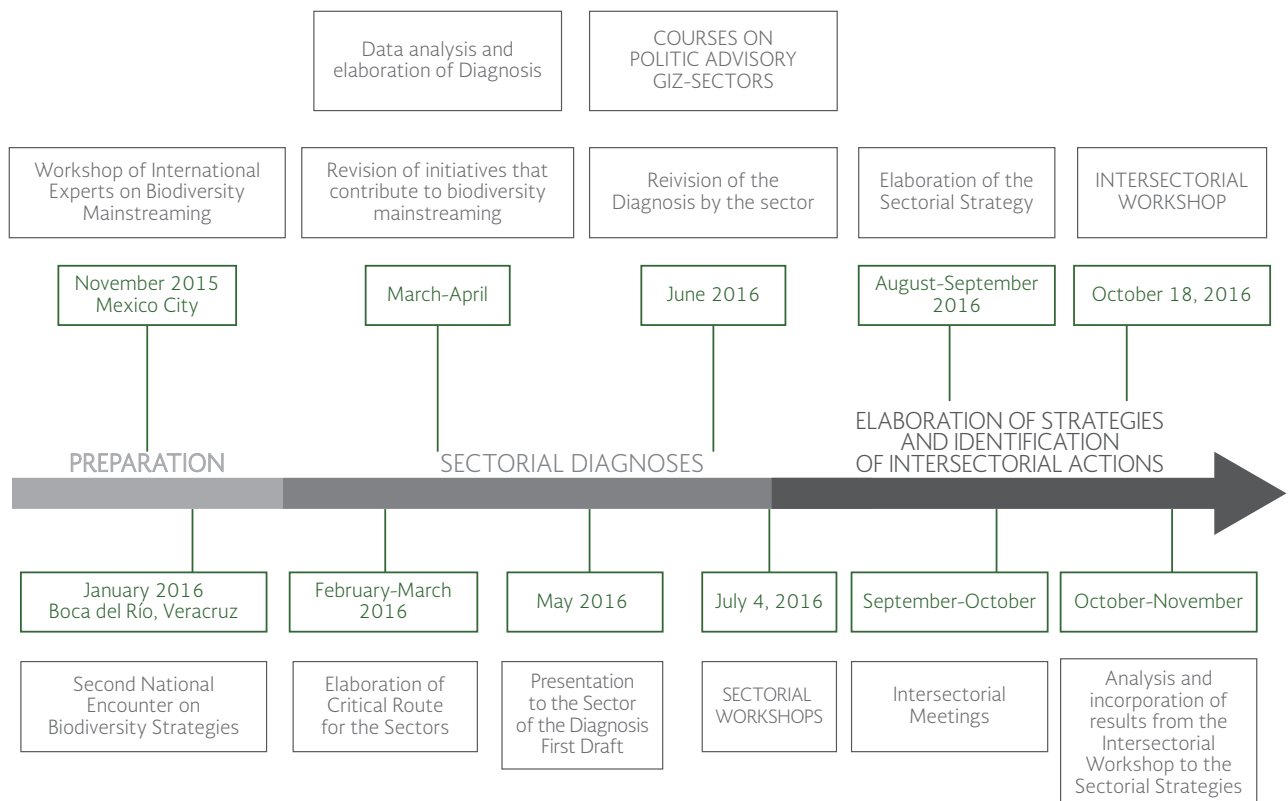
Cover Credit:
"Bosque de Galería". Jorge González Sánchez,
Camécuaro, Michoacán, México, 2015.



CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

The current strategy was made within the framework of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Cancun, 2016 (COP13) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB). CONABIO, German Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN-Mexico) -along with the agricultural, forestry, fishery and tourism sectors- developed a series of assessments revising the public policy instruments and identifying the opportunities for the mainstreaming of conservation and

sustainable use of biodiversity in each one. With the support of those assessments, four sectoral workshops for biodiversity mainstreaming were made, with the objectives of strengthening and complementing the sectoral assessments; to socialize and make the assessments inclusive; to identify the instruments with the better opportunity for biodiversity integration and to identify the key elements in order to generate a work and coordination program for the follow-up of actions.





"Nace el río en la alta montaña". Pablo Alberto Tonatiuh Vitela Guzmán. Tarímbaro, Michoacán, México, 2014.

Finally, these four areas were able to share their acquired knowledge during the “Intersectorial Workshop for the Integration of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity”, which had the support of SAGARPA, SECTUR, CONAPESCA, CONAFOR, SEMARNAT, CONANP, CONABIO, GIZ and BIOFIN-México. During this workshop, all four Sectoral Strategies for Biodiversity Mainstreaming were presented, and the participants worked to identify the best opportunities and mechanisms of inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration with spatial focused initiatives that contribute to achieve biodiversity integration.

VISION

Towards 2022, the Mexican Forestry sector develops strategies and policy instruments that allow a sustainable forestry development, competitive, generator of income, which safeguards, handles, restores and responsibly uses forestry ecosystems and its biodiversity.

OBJECTIVE

To design, implement and promote policies, programs and actions in the Mexican forestry sector to achieve sustainable forestry development, which transversally integrates conservation and use of biodiversity, through the development of national capacity and partnerships with forest owners, technicians, academics, society and other stakeholders in the environmental sector.

AXES AND STRATEGIC LINES

For the Forestry sector, nine strategic axes and fifty-two strategic lines were identified.

Strategic Axis 1

Promotion of sustainable forest production incorporating criteria of conservation and use of biodiversity.

Actions encouraging sustainable forestry production through product generation of added-value services, that take into account conservation criteria and sustainable use of biodiversity, alternative technology and development of productive systems, promotion of good practices, market opening and chains of value.

- To strengthen programs for Forestry Management to improve the integration of biodiversity conservation criteria, connectivity and integrated management to regional scales (UMAFOR) and supply basins.
- To promote the optimization of processes and implementation of good practices towards biodiversity in timber and non-timber forestry production.
- To develop and promote devices and incentives to increase the surface area dedicated to commercial forest plantations, agro-forestry, silvo-cultural and silvipastoral systems that are biodiversity-friendly.
- To promote the adoption of good forest management certification schemes and chains of custody.
- To promote the sustainable use of timber and non-timber forestry products encouraging an integrated management of natural resources.
- To promote the consumption of forestry products generated with sustainable, and compatible with, maintenance and use of biodiversity.
- To impulse sustainable forestry management within Protected Natural Areas (ANP).
- Promote gender perspective in the Sustainable Forest Management actions as a strategy for strengthening local communities.
- To encourage the establishment of voluntary conservation areas through the High Value Conservation Areas (AAVC) identified in Forestry Management Programs.

Strategic Axis 2

Strengthening integral restoration programs with biodiversity criteria.

To move forward in the incorporation of criteria for biodiversity maintenance in program implementation for the restoration of forest landscapes with native species of ecological, social and cultural importance, contributing to productivity and sustainable forestry development.

- To promote ecosystem recovery and restoration through comprehensive projects focused on basins, riparian systems and biological corridors.
- To promote soil restoration works that contribute to microbiota soil protection, generating appropriate conditions for ecological succession.
- To promote forest restoration using techniques that consider mixed approaches of various native species, encouraging its conservation and allowing its later use.
- To encourage certified germplasm use in restoration processes, while safeguarding germplasm moving zones.
- To promote wetlands rehabilitation techniques, privileging ecosystem approach techniques and hydrological forestry restoration.
- To build capacity and develop techniques for the implementation of good practices for the integration of biodiversity conservation and management in areas with restoration schemes.

Strategic Axis 3

Bring impulse to biodiversity conservation in forestry ecosystems through the Payment for Environmental Services (PSA).

To promote active conservation of forest ecosystems with high biodiversity value through Payment for Environmental Services

schemes, helping to stop the processes of degradation and reforestation, as well as to maintain the socio-environmental resilience to Climate Change.

- To favor active conservation approaches in PSA projects by designing and developing sustainable productive projects for biodiversity handling and usage.
- To promote innovative financial strategies, through the integration of local PSA mechanisms, for the conservation of threatened ecosystems, flora and fauna under some risk category.
- To promote and consolidate Trust Funds for ecosystem conservation where species of global importance live.
- To innovate and improve the focus of PSA connectivity approach and biological corridors, through methodological and conceptual tools.
- To strengthen synergies between ANP and PSA instruments to optimize biodiversity conservation in critical areas for biodiversity.
- To encourage the expansion of voluntary conservation areas through PSA.
- To promote methods of community biodiversity monitoring in PSA areas that may be linked to national monitoring systems.
- To promote awareness and participation of other sectors (agricultural, industrial, energy and food) on the establishment of PSA schemes to promote biodiversity conservation.

Strategic Axis 4

Protection of forest ecosystem integrity and biodiversity.

To protect forest ecosystems through preventive and handling measures regarding fires, health and invasive species, which allow preventing or minimizing risks to biodiversity.

To strengthen the actions favoring biodiversity within the national strategy on fire management with coordinated actions of prevention, handling of fuels and emergency response.

- To strengthen the permanent system of early warning and assessment of the phytosanitary status of forestry land by determining control measures.
- To prevent the entry of invasive species and avoid its potential spread in national territory.
- To promote the incorporation of fire handling actions in planning devices of Sustainable Forestry Management and PSA.

Strategic Axis 5

Preservation and improvement of forest genetic resources.

To conserve the largest forest genetic diversity and to promote

genetic improvement considering a broad genetic base for the benefit of biodiversity and the potential effects of Climate Change.

- To conserve the largest forest genetic diversity in-situ and ex-situ, through technological methods, considering priority forest ecosystems and their adaptation to the effects of Climate Change.
- To promote actions that allow obtaining improved genetic material of priority forest species through Forest Germplasm Producer Units, for its use on the establishment of commercial forest plantations and restoration of degraded forest areas.

Strategic Axis 6

Impulse and strengthening of education, communication and culture for biodiversity.

To implement actions allowing the strengthening and continuous improvement of national capacity, officials, technical advisers and producers, regarding the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through the generation and dissemination of knowledge that acknowledges the importance of biodiversity and the benefits it provides to society.

- To generate and promote the use of guides, handbooks and other tools helping the training of technical skills and implementation of best practices in conservation, restoration, protection, management, and harmonized use of biodiversity.
- To strengthen technical and research capacity aimed at the usage and handling of forests, forest species of ecological, economic, social and cultural importance.
- To strengthen and integrate technical assessment services and advisory agents with the participation of academic institutions in sectoral strategies for sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity.
- To promote a greater understanding of the comprehensive role and importance of biodiversity in forest ecosystem function.
- To spread among relevant sectoral stakeholders and sectors linked to the forest territories, the priorities in the field of biodiversity mainstreaming in the forestry sector.
- To socially point out the importance of the practices and role of indigenous peoples and local communities on conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological diversity in forest regions.
- To systematize and disseminate experiences and good practices in the use and conservation of biodiversity in forest ecosystems.
- To strengthen the capacities of communities and common land areas to make good practices of conservation, management and utilization of forest ecosystems in

accordance with the criteria for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Strategic Axis 7

Harmonization of the legal framework for biodiversity mainstreaming into plans and programs of the forestry sector.

To have robust and consistent legal instruments promoting and facilitating the mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the forestry sector.

- To achieve an administrative simplification in order to foster sustainable management of forest ecosystems through improved management programs and to discourage illegal exploitation.
- To review Mexican Official Standards affecting the forestry sector to promote sustainable use and conservation of forest ecosystems, including critical aspects as the handling of fires.
- To improve operating regulations to promote better practices in the use, conservation and restoration of biodiversity in CONAFOR programs.

Strategic Axis 8

Promotion of inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination to enhance the approach of biodiversity in the forestry sector.

To impulse inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination for an effective execution of conservation integration and sustainable use of biodiversity.

1. To promote the implementation of coordinated actions between institutions (local and federal) affecting the forestry sector.
2. To improve institutional coordination for better implementation of the legal framework that has an impact on the conservation of the territories and forestry resources with SAGARPA, CONAGUA, CONANP, CONABIO, SECTUR and CONAPESCA.
3. To improve the alignment of strategies, objectives and programs of the forestry sector with international treaties relating to the use, conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems.
4. To influence the formulation of the planning instruments of domestic and sectoral policies to consolidate the strategy for biodiversity mainstreaming, as well as to strengthen and formalize the institutional action framework.
5. To strengthen inter-sectoral cooperation and exchange of information with other sector institutions in order to

advance in the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy.

6. To foster cooperation with international agencies and exchange of experiences for the adoption of new techniques, which will help to improve the strategies of active conservation, protection, restoration and productivity of the forestry sector and the conservation of biodiversity in forest ecosystems.

Strategic Axis 9

To strengthen biodiversity monitoring and evaluation systems.

To achieve the creation and strengthening of information systems needed to evaluate and monitor the compliance of the objectives outlined in the strategic lines of integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including the establishment of baselines and design of indicators:

- To strengthen the operation and continuous improvement of monitoring systems, forest information and its integration with other data management systems of monitoring.
 - I. Biodiversity Wide Range Monitoring System,
 - II. Multipurpose National Inventory,
 - III. Productive Forest Landscape National Net work Monitoring System,
 - IV. National Wetland Monitoring System.
- To promote dissemination and use of technical and financial information indicators of conservation of forests and biodiversity among the owners of forest land, technical advisors, decision-makers and other relevant actors in the sector.
- Establish mechanisms to ensure the participation of the technical advisors and the owners of forestland, especially the community committees of participatory surveillance, in monitoring programs of their lands.
- To strengthen the domestic capacities for remote monitoring of forest ecosystems and its biodiversity.
- To establish a system to monitor and evaluate the progress and results of the lines of action established hereof.
- To establish a communication strategy to state the progress and results of the current strategy.



Strategy for Biodiversity mainstreaming. Forestry Sector (2016-2022)

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