



TOOLKIT FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL VULNERABILITY TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Exercise: Rural map of our community



Torrential rain

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The National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) is aware of the importance of mainstreaming climate change into public policy actions that are implemented in Mexico's natural protected areas (NPAs).

To help achieve this, we have developed the *Toolkit for the analysis of social vulnerability to the effects of climate change* at the local level in NPAs. The purpose of the toolkit is to enhance the technical capacities and expertise of facilitators who work with local communities and require a deeper insight into the relationship between social factors and natural resource conservation. It is crucial to take this relationship into account and to consider the way it increases or reduces vulnerability to the potential impacts of climate change.

The toolkit contains participatory exercises and semi-structured interviews with a gender focus to be carried out with key respondents and focus groups. On this methodological basis and using various operational capacities an analysis of social vulnerability to the impacts of climate change is conducted, which is replicable in other regions in the country.

Drawing on the perspective and knowledge of local communities, the toolkit provides information on the three key components of



Exercise: Rural Transect

relevance in this regard, namely 1) terrestrial ecosystems, 2) the effects of climate change and 3) livelihood strategies. It reveals how these are interrelated and analyses them in terms of the vulnerability of NPAs and surrounding areas. It also provides an insight into access to and control of natural resources, and the individual and collective capacity of the people living in these areas to cope with adverse changes.

The toolkit supplements the *Guide to developing climate change adaptation programmes for natural protected areas* (CONANP-FMCN-TNC 2011), as its methodology actively involves communities in the process of identifying climate change adaptation strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, biodiversity and the services they provide.



Native Maize

THE TOOLKIT:

Obtains local information about the effects of climate change;

The most important consequences of climate change facing people living within or in the vicinity of NPAs are identified together with the communities themselves. It is determined how these impacts affect the livelihood strategies of the various population groups and the ecosystems they use.

Provides an insight into the social causes of vulnerability;

Vulnerability to climate change is not determined solely by climatic and environmental factors. It is also strongly influenced by social, political and economic factors, which can strengthen or weaken the capacity of individuals or groups to cope with adverse effects of climate change.



Fishing Cage

Increases the effectiveness and efficiency of adaptation strategies through local ownership;

In addition to providing information, the toolkit helps communities to assume ownership of adaptation strategies in accordance with their specific needs, which contributes to increasing their effectiveness and sustainability. It also fosters a shift in the roles played by the facilitator and the communities, as it provides starting points for initiating a mutually beneficial dialogue. This enables locals to become key players in ecosystem conservation.

Through seven exercises is possible to know different dimensions of social vulnerability and its relationship to the use of ecosystems for design in conjunction with the local community adaptation and mitigation strategies to climate change:

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