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Mexico's Input to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation

Mexico welcomes the initiative to develop a roadmap aimed at halting and reversing deforestation, in alignment with Mexico's NDC 3.0.¹ Forests provide essential ecosystem services, which support local economies and sustain key productive systems, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and nature-based value chains. These ecosystems are also vital for the socio-ecosystemic adaptation to climate change.

In Mexico, addressing deforestation and forest degradation is approached through an integrated territorial management model, which recognizes rural territories as multifunctional systems where conservation, restoration and production are jointly promoted within a landscape approach. This approach is operationalized through the National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ENAREDD+).

In this context, the following inputs are submitted by Mexico's National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), providing national context for information and insights for consideration. Mexico is committed, as outlined in its NDC 3.0, to advancing adaptation through the implementation and monitoring of ENAREDD+ actions to strengthen the climate resilience of Indigenous Peoples, local and Afro-Mexican communities; integrating lessons learned to consolidate an integrated landscape management approach that supports resilient and low-emissions development while respecting collective rights; and promoting voluntary REDD+ mechanisms with responsible private sector participation.

In addition, Mexico wishes to highlight the value of exploring potential linkages between the Roadmap and The First Global Stocktake (GST) process under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with a view to fostering coherence with the collective assessment of progress toward the goals of the Paris Agreement. In this regard, the Roadmap could serve as a useful instrument to help operationalize relevant GST outcomes within the forest sector, particularly those oriented to halt and reverse deforestation. Furthermore, enhanced alignment with the Convention's relevant bodies and processes would support greater coherence between political priorities and technical workstreams.

¹ Component C "Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services" Action C.1: "Achieve a zero net deforestation rate by 2030".





PART I. WHY HALTING AND REVERSING DEFORESTATION

SOCIOECONOMIC RATIONALE

Halting and reversing deforestation is closely linked to broader development objectives, including poverty reduction, food security, energy supply, and climate resilience. Global assessments, including FAO’s Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and the State of the World’s Forests (SOFO), indicate that forest-dependent populations are often among the most vulnerable, and that forest outcomes are shaped by land-use change dynamics, governance effectiveness, and the alignment of policies and incentives across sectors. Addressing deforestation, therefore, requires integrated approaches that recognize forests as strategic assets for sustainable development and that align environmental, social, and economic policies at the territorial level.

In Mexico, forests cover over 70% of the national territory and support the livelihoods of millions of people, with a distinctive governance model based on collective land tenure (ejidos and communities). This context underscores the importance of strengthening local governance, reducing territorial inequalities, and integrating forests into productive systems and value chains.

Mexico:

- Approximately 138.7 million hectares of forest vegetation, covering 70.6% of national territory.
- Around 11.9 million people (9.4% of the population) live in forest areas, often under conditions of social vulnerability.
- Nearly 70.6 million hectares of forest land are under collective ownership (ejidos and communities).
- More than 16,000 agrarian nuclei are involved in forest governance.
- Approximately 30% of forest ecosystems are inhabited by Indigenous Peoples.
- Around 70 million hectares support livestock systems as a source of forage.
- Mangroves (~905,000 ha) support fisheries valued at ~USD 2 billion annually.
- Forests support ~12% of national electricity generation through hydropower.

Suggested Insights for the Roadmap:

- Positioning forests as strategic assets for sustainable development, emphasizing their contribution to national economies and livelihoods.
- Integrating forests into productive systems and rural economies, promoting models such as agroforestry, sustainable livestock, and nature-based value chains that maintain forest cover while generating income.
- Addressing territorial inequalities and social vulnerabilities in forest regions, ensuring that policies effectively reach populations with limited access to services, finance, and economic opportunities.





- Aligning economic incentives with sustainable land-use outcomes, including mechanisms that recognize ecosystem services and reduce pressures for land-use change.
- Promoting integrated landscape approaches, enabling coordinated planning and implementation at the territorial level where competing land uses converge.
- Recognizing and incorporating multiple forest values into decision-making, including economic, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions.
- Strengthening the role of subnational governments and local actors, including Indigenous Peoples and communities, ensuring their effective participation in governance, planning, and implementation processes.
- Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forest biodiversity.
- Protection of cultural heritage and spaces in forest landscapes.

PART II. NATIONAL PATHWAYS: WHAT COUNTIES CAN (AND SHOULD) DO

HALTING DEFORESTATION

Forest ecosystems are under increasing pressure from competing land-use demands, driven by economic factors, limited policy coherence across sectors, and governance challenges. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), agricultural expansion accounts for nearly 90 percent of global deforestation, with livestock production representing a significant share, particularly in tropical regions.

In Mexico, deforestation reflects these global dynamics, with the expansion of pasture and agricultural activities as the main drivers, alongside challenges related to enforcement and land-use planning. The country has developed monitoring systems and policy frameworks to address these pressures; however, strengthening cross-sectoral coordination, improving governance, and scaling up sustainable production systems remain critical to halt deforestation and enable sustainable land-use transitions.

Mexico:

- Between 2001–2023, an estimated 4.77 million hectares of forest cover were lost.
- Average annual deforestation rate: approximately 207,665 hectares per year.
- Around 73% of deforestation is linked to pasture expansion, and 22% to agriculture.
- A significant share of deforestation occurs outside authorized land-use change processes, reflecting governance and enforcement gaps.
- Mexico operates a National Forest Monitoring System, which integrates the Satellite Forest Monitoring System with the National Forest and Soil Inventory.
- Mexico's efforts to address deforestation are anchored in the National Forestry Program 2025–2030 (PRONAFOR 2025–2030), which provides a comprehensive policy framework to tackle the underlying drivers of forest loss.





- In terms of addressing deforestation, PRONAFOR 2025–2030 prioritizes the alignment of agricultural, environmental, and territorial policies to reduce pressures from unsustainable activities, while promoting sustainable production models and local value chains as viable alternatives to forest conversion. It also strengthens cross-sectoral coordination, implements targeted actions in priority areas, and advances an integrated landscape approach.

Suggested Insights for the Roadmap:

- Recognizing deforestation as the result of economic and land-use decisions, requiring policies that shift incentives toward sustainable land-use practices.
- Enhancing policy coherence across sectors, particularly between forestry, agriculture, livestock, and rural development, while promoting integrated landscape approaches to address deforestation drivers and align environmental, social, and economic objectives.
- Addressing the agriculture–forest interface as a critical entry point, focusing on livestock and agricultural expansion through integrated approaches that support sustainable production while maintaining forest cover.
- Promoting sustainable production systems, including agroforestry and sustainable livestock models, improving productivity in non-forest lands, aiming to maintain forest cover while supporting livelihoods.
- Strengthening governance, enforcement, and rule of law, by improving monitoring of land-use change, addressing illegal activities, and reinforcing institutional capacities at national and subnational levels.
- Linking monitoring systems to decision-making and implementation, ensuring that data generated through national forest monitoring systems effectively inform policy design, prioritization, and adaptive management.
- Scaling up financial mechanisms and investment, prioritizing instruments that enable sustained, on-the-ground implementation and long-term land-use transitions.

ADDRESSING FOREST DEGRADATION

Forest degradation is a widespread but often less visible process that reduces ecosystem functionality, productivity, and resilience without necessarily involving land-use change. Globally, degradation is driven by a combination of disturbances such as fires, pests, and unsustainable extraction, as well as structural constraints in governance, monitoring, and management capacities. Addressing degradation requires a stronger focus on sustainable forest management, restoration, and prevention, supported by improved monitoring systems and long-term institutional capacity.

In Mexico, forest degradation is driven by recurrent disturbances, including forest fires, pests and diseases, and unsustainable extraction practices, which progressively affect forest condition. Strengthening forest management, with monitoring and analysis systems in areas of greatest risk and vulnerability due to climate change, considering altitudinal, climatic,





environmental, and socioeconomic variables, in order to design and implement territorial prevention and response strategies, as well as enhancing prevention and response systems, and expanding restoration efforts are central to addressing these pressures. At the same time, improving monitoring of forest conditions and reinforcing local capacities and governance mechanisms are essential to ensure long-term resilience and sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

Mexico:

- Forest degradation is driven by fires, pests and diseases, and unsustainable extraction practices, compounded by climate variability and ecosystem stress factors.
- Pests and diseases affect approximately 92,699 hectares annually (2014–2024).
- The main drivers of forest health damage include parasitic plants (40.3%), bark beetles (24.6%), defoliating insects (23.2%), followed by other pests (5.4%), diseases (3.9%), and borers (2.6%).
- Forest fires affect an average of 442,622 hectares annually (1998–2024), with around 8,000 fire events per year.
- Approximately 98% of forest fires are anthropogenic, linked to agricultural activities, intentional burning, land-use change, and other human-related causes.
- Illegal and selective logging contributes to the progressive degradation of forest structure, productivity, and ecosystem functionality.

Suggested Insights for the Roadmap:

- Considering forest degradation as a critical but often less visible process, requiring increased attention alongside deforestation in policy, monitoring, and financing frameworks, in the context of climate change and its impacts at the local level.
- Promoting sustainable forest management as a primary approach to address degradation.
- Strengthening prevention and early response systems, particularly for forest fires, pests, and diseases, which aligns with Mexico’s NDC 3.0²
- Enhancing forest health management, including integrated fire management and pest and disease control, as key actions.
- Addressing illegal logging and informal markets, which undermine sustainable management and contribute to the progressive deterioration of forest resources.
- Enhancing monitoring systems to include forest condition and quality indicators, complementing forest cover assessments and enabling more comprehensive tracking of degradation.
- Scaling up restoration of degraded ecosystems, prioritizing areas under high pressure and ensuring continuity of interventions over time.

² Component C, measure 5, of the adaptation section: "Prevent the establishment, control and eradicate invasive species, diseases and pests, whose impacts are exacerbated by the effects of climate change."





- Strengthening local capacities and community-based management, recognizing the role of local actors in prevention, monitoring, and long-term stewardship.
- Identifying local climate change adaptation strategies that communities have developed to strengthen climate and forest sector policies from a gender, intersectional, and intercultural perspective.
- Aligning financial mechanisms to support forests, including incentives that reward sustainable management, restoration, and the maintenance of ecosystem services.
- Promoting integrated approaches that combine management, restoration, and prevention, ensuring coordinated action across sectors.

FOREST RESTORATION, REFORESTATION AND AFFORESTATION

Ensuring effective forest restoration, reforestation and afforestation requires an integrated and participatory approach that restores fundamental ecosystem functions while strengthening livelihoods and social cohesion in priority ecosystems and vulnerable communities. It is essential to incorporate the perspectives of indigenous communities and other priority groups, ensuring their voices guide the design and implementation of adaptation efforts in forest conservation

Mexico:

- Forest restoration in Mexico is implemented mainly through integrated, multi-year interventions at landscape scale, prioritizing watersheds and regions with high ecological and social relevance, rather than isolated plot-level actions.
- Public support schemes under CONAFOR promote restoration packages combining soil conservation, reforestation, assisted natural regeneration and productive restoration, reflecting a shift from planting-focused approaches to ecosystem recovery processes.
- National programs prioritize degraded forest lands where natural regeneration is limited.
- Public support targets owners and holders of forest land, particularly ejidos and communities.
- Restoration is framed as a process to recover soil functionality and ecosystem services, including water regulation, carbon sequestration and biodiversity, rather than solely increasing tree cover.
- Suggested Insights for the Roadmap:
- Strengthening monitoring systems to enable continuous improvement of restoration strategies.
- Promoting nature-based solutions, forest communities' participation, and silvopastoral systems to restore ecosystems, ensuring that restoration contributes to equitable development and environmental justice.
- Prioritizing restoration in ecosystems, rather than hectares restored, particularly in priority watersheds under stress, with a focus on vulnerable rural, indigenous and local communities.





- Ensuring protection, maintenance, and ecosystem recovery by addressing disturbance factors, implementing soil and water conservation measures, and overcoming barriers to ensure long-term success of restoration processes.
- Enhancing policy and institutional frameworks through integrated territorial approaches, promoting instruments such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), and fostering coordination across government levels, private sector and communities to ensure inclusive and intercultural governance.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT, BIOECONOMY, AGROFORESTRY

Advancing sustainable forest management requires strengthening community-based productive systems that integrate biodiversity conservation, market access and inclusive development, while ensuring the long-term resilience of ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

Mexico:

- Mexico has approximately 8.39 million hectares under forest management (2023), with the majority corresponding to ejidos and communities.
- Mexico produces only around one-third of its domestic timber demand, with annual production between 7–9 million m³ versus a significantly higher consumption.
- Forest production remains highly concentrated in low value-added products, with over 80% oriented to sawnwood.
- Approximately 34% of managed forest areas are certified under national or international standards, mostly within community ownership.
- Productive diversification is advancing through non-timber forest products, though still concentrated in specific regions and products.
- National policy frameworks promote linking production to market demand and territorial value chains, emphasizing the articulation of supply and demand at regional level, and the development of local forest enterprises to achieve economies of scale.
- Agroforestry and silvopastoral systems are increasingly integrated as productive and transitional land-use strategies, particularly in landscapes under pressure from agriculture and livestock.
- Strengthening community forest enterprises and local value chains is a key national priority, with policy support for business development, market access, and value addition, including integration with restoration processes and sustainable production models.

Suggested Insights for the Roadmap:

- The roadmap should follow up on paragraphs 33, 34 and 55 of decision 1/CMA.5. In addition, it should constitute a space that enables the provision of more robust and consolidated information on how forests function as solutions for both mitigation and





adaptation to climate change, which could be taken into account in the second Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement.

- Prioritizing regions with high productive potential and environmental value in national interventions, while promoting diversified forest activities, and focusing on strengthening community enterprises.
- Strengthening data and monitoring systems, with a particular emphasis on locally led and community-based monitoring approaches that incorporate Indigenous and local knowledge, to support decision-making on sustainable use, agroforestry systems and value chain development.
- Integrating agroforestry systems as buffer strategies, rather than standalone interventions.
- Enhancing policy, legal and institutional frameworks by promoting community-based forest management to support integrated and multistakeholder landscape strategies.
- Promoting integrated territorial management by fostering land-use diversification, ecological connectivity, conservation areas, and sustainable production systems.
- Advancing value chains by strengthening local capacities and market integration, enabling forest products to capture greater value at origin, while leveraging certification and sustainable sourcing mechanisms to access differentiated markets.
- Fostering knowledge exchange and promoting the integration of traditional knowledge with technical expertise in forest management and production systems.

PART III. THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Achieving the 2030 objective of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation, which directly aligns with México’s NDC 3.0³, requires scaling up technical cooperation to reinforce institutional capacities. International cooperation can play a key role in supporting countries to generate reliable forest data and create or strengthen the tools and capacities to translate technical inputs into effective policy action.

Key aspects include:

- Mobilizing financial and technical resources to support training, technology transfer, and institutional strengthening for forest monitoring systems.
- Facilitating knowledge exchange and mentoring between countries with advanced monitoring systems and those still developing capacity, ensuring alignment with global frameworks.
- Strengthening implementation capacity by increasing training of local authorities and communities in sustainable forest management practices.

³ Component C, measure 1 of the adaptation section.





- Promoting experience sharing on governance mechanisms that enable the effective integration of local and indigenous knowledge into forest policies and decision-making processes.
- Supporting exchanges of best practices in restoration and reforestation programs, enabling countries to learn from successful models and adapt them to their local contexts.
- Enhancing resilience by promoting Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), ensuring that measures contribute to climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihoods.
- Fostering coordination among institutions and across sectors to ensure coherence between forest, agricultural, and climate policies.
- Expanding access to innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships that support effective on-the-ground implementation and territorial impact.

FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE

At the international and national levels, current flows of forest finance are incompatible with ending deforestation by 2030. At the same time, potentially environmentally damaging and deforestation related incentives are bigger than investments in sustainable forest management activities.

Mexico:

- Multilateral and bilateral funding has been key to implementing actions in the protection, conservation and restoration of Mexican forests, as well as for the economic and social development of the people who live in them.
- Forest carbon projects in the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) in Mexico have resulted in some communities, ejidos and other owners of forest areas being able to receive complementary income from the management and maintenance activities of forest areas.
- However, access to international sources, as well as to REDD+ results-based payments, is now limited and ceases to be a viable option as an upper-middle-income country.
- Public budget for forests is increasingly limited and fails to meet existing demands; a lot of technical viable applications are left without government support for their implementation.
- The lack of recognition and valuation of the ecosystem services provided by forests, which represent key inputs for the profitability and sustainability of multiple production chains, results in low mobilization of private capital towards the Mexican forestry sector.
- People in forest communities are often unaware of the existence of sources of financing (e.g., loans), they may distrust the adoption of loans due to limited financial education, and have weak organizational structures, making them less attractive to financial institutions.





Suggested Insights for the Roadmap:

- Fostering innovation and flexibility in the selection and evaluation criteria for funding from multilateral funds.
- Rise government leadership to mobilize private forest finance: regulation, legislation and incentives are critical to mobilize and de-risk private investment in forests.
- Develop financial mechanisms that expand the pool of resources from private capital for the forestry sector. This could include strengthening high-integrity carbon markets, as well as Payment of Ecosystem Services (PES), biodiversity credits, and debt-for-nature swaps.
- Develop the value chains of sustainable and community-based forest products, with the purpose of increasing national and international demand.
- Redirect capital and subsidies away from deforestation-related activities.
- Expand the use of blended finance schemes through government and donor engagement.
- Promote highly concessional finance schemes from both the public sector and international financial institutions, fostering broader access to adaptation finance and specialized instruments that prioritize community-based initiatives.

