



Alianza  
**México REDD+**  
Con la gente por sus bosques

# REDD+ IN YUCATAN PENINSULA

JOINING FORCES TO PRODUCE AND PRESERVE



## Campeche, Yucatan, and Quintana Roo combat deforestation together in the Yucatan Peninsula and build a new path for growth

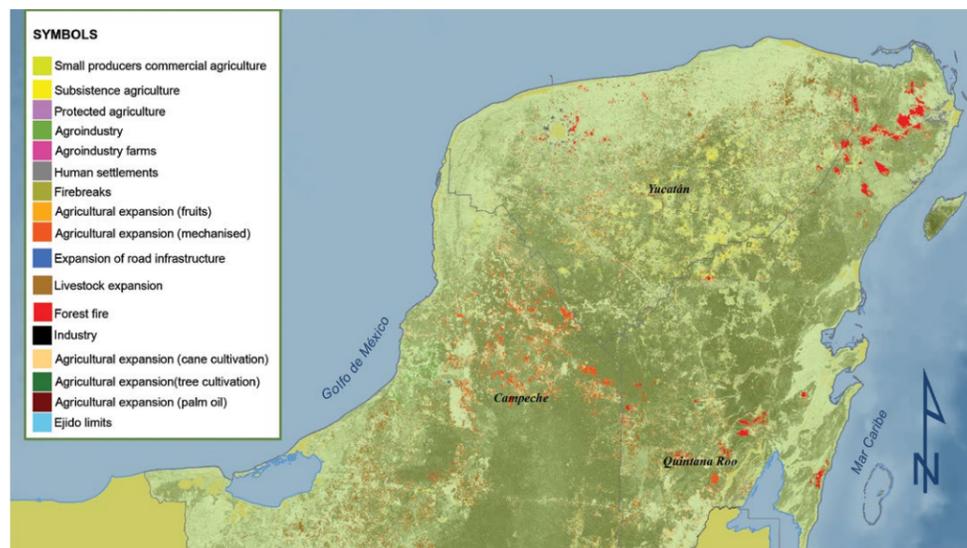
Mexico has lost more than 2 million hectares of forests and jungles—5 percent of its total forest area—in the last two decades. Mexico also lost the environmental services these forests and jungles provide, becoming more vulnerable to climate change and suffering the effects of such degradation. To stop this process, the governments of the three states of the Yucatan peninsula, along with civil society, the private sector, academia, and communities in the region, joined forces. They received the support of the Mexico REDD+ Program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

To be more specific, the goal is to reduce forest loss by 80 percent in the region by 2020, and to achieve zero net deforestation by 2030. In order to achieve these goals, new mechanisms for coordinating and combining efforts on the continent have been created.

The level of integration and coordination between different sectors of government and the governments of Campeche, Yucatan, and Quintana Roo is unprecedented. It required reaching plural and inclusive agreements with the participation of the government and civil society, the private sector, the academy and the producers; agreements that we, as the Mexico REDD+ Program, promote and support. Thanks to this effort, today the peninsula is ready to receive and apply the resources of the international community for the reduction of emissions by deforestation and degradation.

### The five pillars of REDD+ in the peninsula To conserve biodiversity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the Yucatan Peninsula, five pillars were established:

-  A comprehensive strategy, included in the ASPY (by its initials in Spanish), in the REDD + strategies of the three states and in the Investment Programs of the Emission Reduction Initiative
-  A Productive Zoning Map that allows you to easily identify the potential of each part of the territory, thereby fueling planning efforts and the alignment of public policies
-  The Climate Fund of the Yucatan Peninsula, which channels resources to finance this new way of growing and conserving
-  A monitoring system focused on the Observatory of the Maya Forest (OSM by its initials in Spanish), which will be articulated with the National Monitoring System
-  Respect for environmental and social safeguards, guaranteed by the Safeguards Committee of the Yucatan Peninsula



The causes of deforestation in the Yucatan Peninsula

## A peninsular agreement to integrate the visions of each state

The commitment of Campeche, Yucatan, and Quintana Roo with sustainable development and with the change of economic model has translated into the Agreement for Sustainability of the Yucatan Peninsula (ASPY), signed in Cancun in December 2016 during the XIII Conference of The Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

This document sets six goals, which include:

- Achieve zero net deforestation by 2030 with an interim step of reducing gross deforestation by 80 percent by 2020
- Restore two million hectares of land, or ensure that 50 percent of the land and coastal territory of the Yucatan Peninsula is under forest conservation and/or management schemes

With this agreement, the private initiative also assumed its responsibility in the same framework: 70 companies that have a presence in the peninsula pledged, in the Declaration of the Private and Financial Sector for the sustainability of the peninsula, to work to make of this region a leader and an example of sustainable growth that drives local economies and achieves articulation with national and global markets.

Complementing these efforts, and with the support of the Mexico REDD+ Program, the governments of each state developed their own REDD+ state strategies. This is of particular relevance, on the one hand, because the change of land use in the region releases between four and eight million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere every year. On the other hand, much of Mexico's efforts to correct this situation will come from federal entities. Today, thanks to these state strategies, the three states of the peninsula are prepared and will have access to the funds that the international community allocates for this purpose.

This preparation measure is already paying off. The World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership (FCPF) approved Mexico's REDD+ plan, and through the Emission Reduction Initiative (IRE by its initials in Spanish), Mexico may be one of the first to receive payments for its results. To make this possible, the three states of the Yucatan Peninsula have developed investment programs that set activities and goals to implement the IRE, which would not be possible without the contributions of the Mexico REDD+ and that will be implemented through territory development public agents designated by their governments.

Calakmul, a reserve that safeguards Mexico's natural and cultural heritage



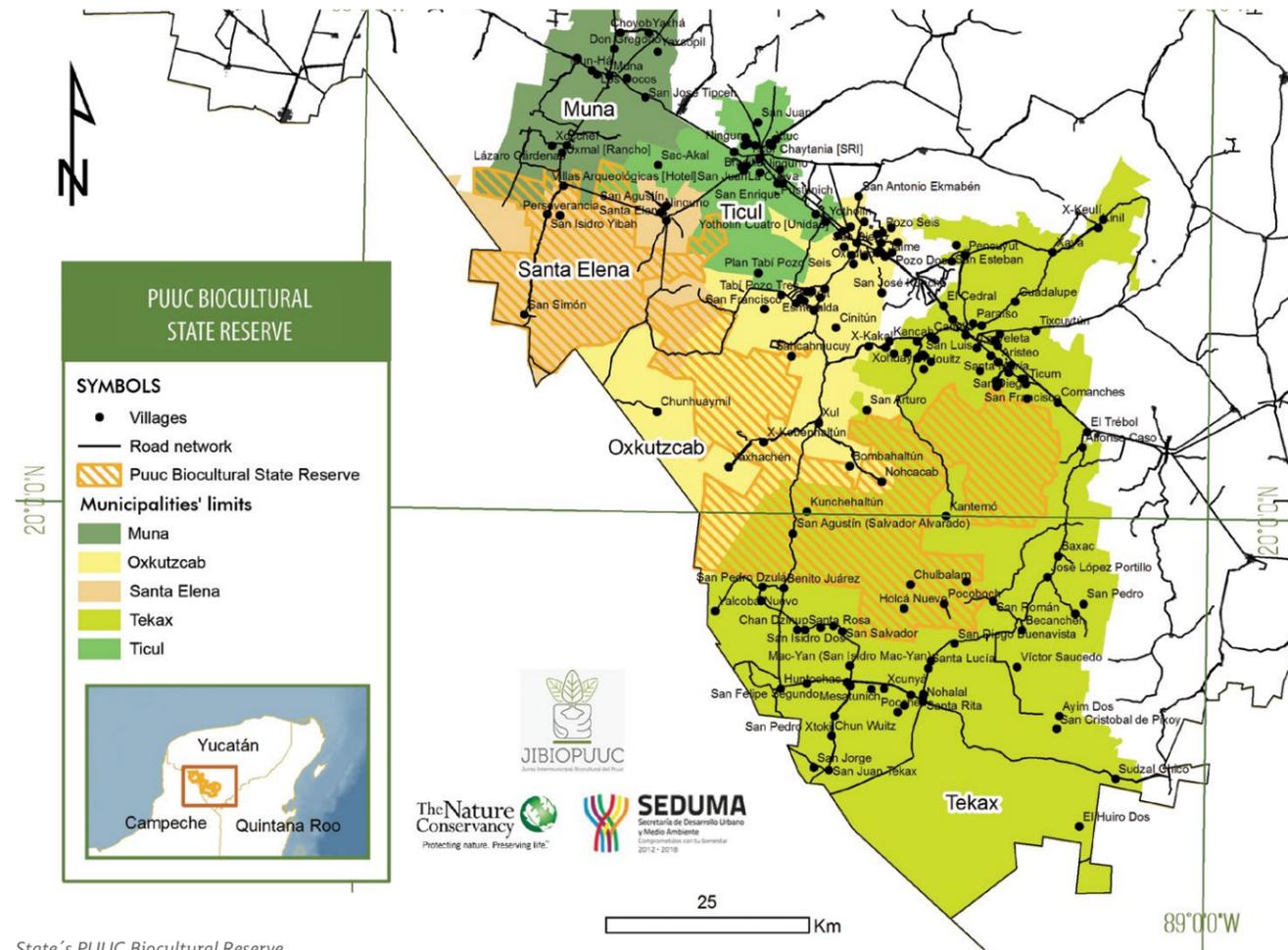
### Inter-municipal coordination to find solutions from the local level

One of the key tasks of the Mexico REDD+ Program in the Yucatan Peninsula was supporting the constitution of public agents for territorial development. We made key contributions to the constitution and consolidation of inter-municipal boards. These consist in alliances of municipalities that allow its members to establish policies at the regional level, coordinate efforts to follow the same path of development, and govern more effectively and efficiently the territory they share. In Yucatan, thanks to our support, the Inter-municipal Board of the Biocultural Reserve of Puuc (JIBIOPUUC by its initials in Spanish) is now a reality and a fundamental element for the new model that is beginning to form.

JIBIOPUUC operates in the Puuc mountain range, where much of the deforestation in Yucatan occurs. Through the board, the municipalities that integrate it can promote joint actions, and the government of Yucatan has designated it as its agent for the implementation of the state investment program.



Pineapple in the ejido of San Agustín, territory of the JIBIOPUUC



State's PUUC Biocultural Reserve

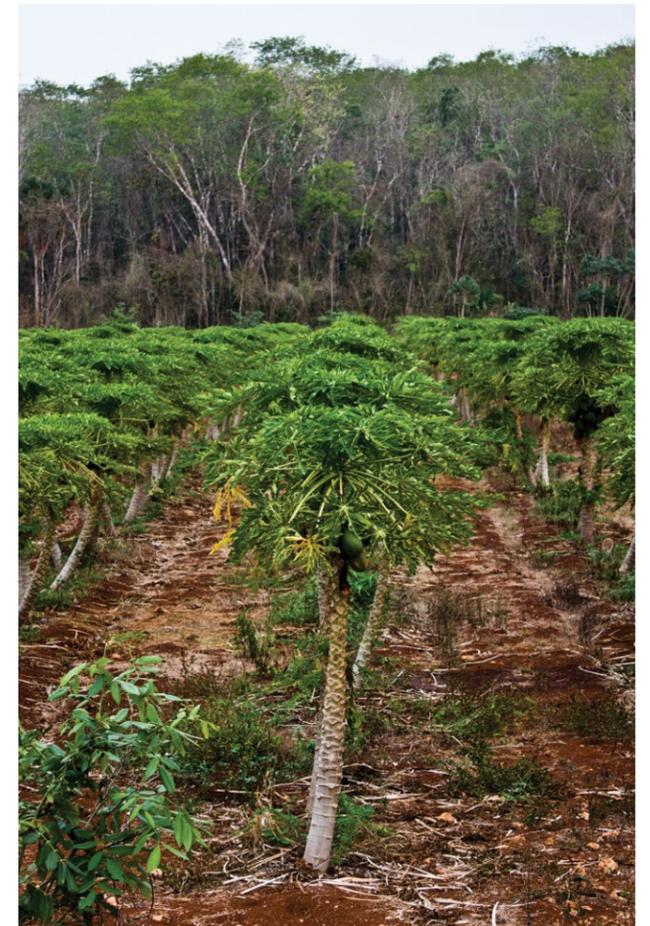
### A transformation with the feet on the ground, and a map for rigorous planning

With our help, it is now clear in the Yucatan Peninsula how to find a new relationship with nature and to make good use of the natural resources.

First, a cost-benefit analysis tool was developed, which allows us to know the profitability of a production project in financial, social, and environmental terms. We promoted pilot projects on 174 hectares, providing support to dozens of ejidos, agricultural producers, beekeepers, charcoal producers, and foresters with history and willingness to engage in this new relationship with nature.

In order for these practices to replicate and become the norm, we started with four communities, in which 634 participants exchanged experiences, saw new ways of doing things, and started setting a new tone in their territories.

Along with other allies, we created a Sustainable Productive Zoning Map that determines, depending on ecological, economic and social factors, what is the vocation of each part of the peninsula. With it, state governments and private actors have a powerful tool to know where to plant 19 agricultural products, where to extract forest products, and where to undertake conservation efforts, and with what intensity and restrictions.

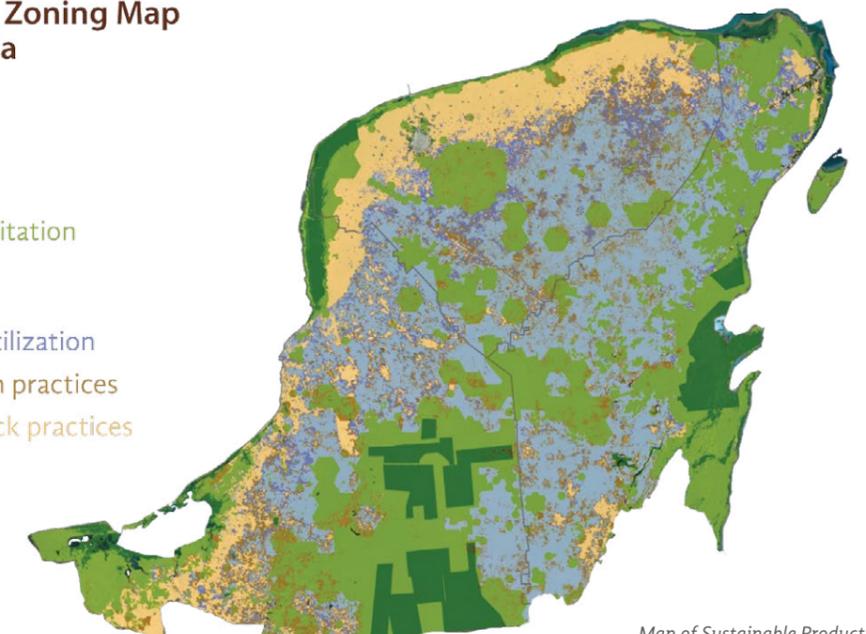


Cultivation of papayas on land with forest vocation

### Sustainable Productive Zoning Map of the Yucatan Peninsula

#### Land use

- Strict conservation
- Conservation and exploitation sustainable
- Forest utilization
- Non-Intensive Forest Utilization
- High-impact production practices
- Agricultural and livestock practices
- Preservation
- Statal limit



Map of Sustainable Productive Zoning

### A new fund for a new way of working and producing

In an unprecedented event on the continent, the states of the Yucatan Peninsula, along with the three universities of the region and The Nature Conservancy, formed the Climate Change Fund of the Yucatan Peninsula. It is a public-private institution that will make it possible to attract national, international, and local resources and channel them to the promotion of sustainable rural development.

This Fund is the recipient of the results-based financial resources that the international community pays to the states in the region for their achievements in the IRE and for other similar endeavors. These resources will be used in accordance with the public policies established by the Inter-Secretariat Commission on Climate Change, with the assistance of state governments and the decisions of a committee of experts.

To ensure that they are employed in a transparent, efficient way, respecting the safeguards, and with the greatest possible impact, their governance structure includes consultation and oversight bodies.



Sustainable Forest Management in Yucatán

### Assessment and monitoring of achievements and change

The Observatory of the Maya Forest was created out of a need to know the actual impact of each action undertaken. It consolidates monitoring efforts throughout the territory and advises, almost in real time, whether and where forests are being lost.

Its governance structure is designed to ensure greater cooperation and to maximize the benefits of such joint work. Thus, the most relevant decisions on funding and lines of work are made by a coordination committee, which includes representatives from academia, civil society, and government from different levels. The information it generates is channeled to an open

network of members so that it has the greatest possible impact.

This enables it to meet its main objective, which is to provide information to help design and implement public policies and local strategies to reduce deforestation and degradation. This is achieved through three actions: informing users of what is happening in the territory, supporting the generation of this information, promoting synergies, avoiding duplication, harmonizing methods and strengthening capacities, and linking it with the National Forestry Monitoring System.

Measuring trees and monitoring their development is essential to know what happens in the territory. San Agustín, Yucatán



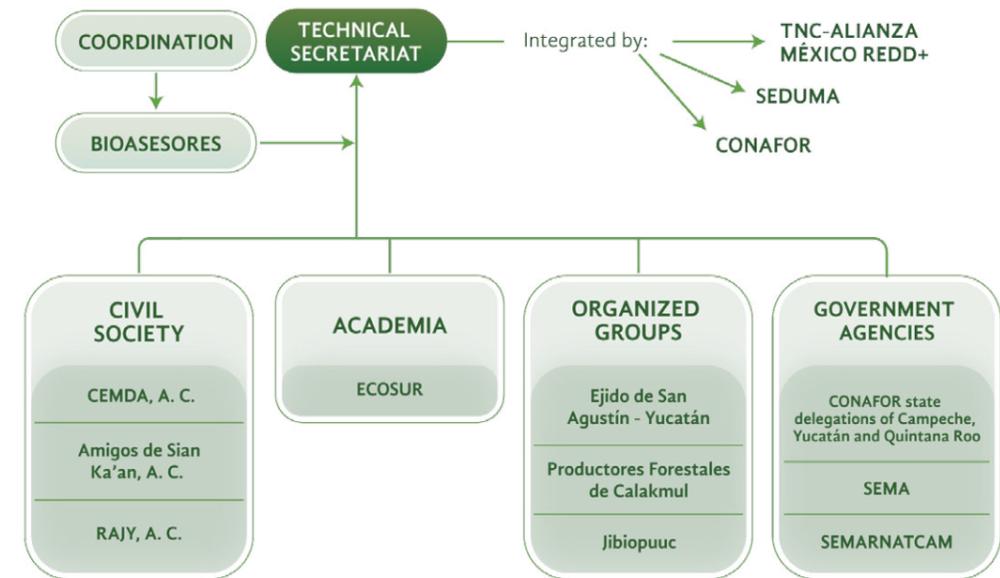
### A system of safeguards that can act as guides and eventually become standards

To ensure that the impact on the territory, on people's lives, and on nature doesn't violate anyone's rights, and to ensure that the planning is done with the participation of all relevant actors, we promoted the creation of the Safeguards Committee of the Yucatan Peninsula. This committee, which brings together people from all three states, allows civil society organizations, producers, and academics to exchange views and join forces to demand and ensure that the government policies in this area are strengthened or in the correct direction in terms of deforestation and rural and forestry development.

With an integrated vision and by articulating the efforts of the government, civil society, producers, and academics, we help build a new development path that uses biodiversity as a motor and stops seeing it as an obstacle.

The Yucatan Peninsula charts the way to sustainability for a country and a continent that have a lot to lose if their forests disappear, and a lot to gain if they remain standing.

#### Structure and members of the safeguards Committee of the Yucatan Peninsula



Farmer Santos and his agroforestral plot in Ejido San Agustín, Yucatan





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