



Photo by Fulvio Eccardi

Objective

CONECTA seeks to improve integrated landscape management and promote climate-smart production practices in selected watersheds. The 15 eligible watersheds are located in the states of Chihuahua, Chiapas, Jalisco and Veracruz.

It is financially supported by a grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), through the World Bank, and complementary funding. The five-year implementation of the project (2021-2026) is the responsibility of the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC, acronym in Spanish) and the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature, A.C. (FMCN, acronym in Spanish), with the support of three regional funds¹.



Map: States where the CONECTA project operates.

Components

1 Development and promotion of integrated landscape management. Activities implemented under this component support the development and implementation of Integrated Watershed Action Plans (IWAP) including their application in public programs and private sector projects. The IWAPs are territorial planning instruments that identify the activities necessary to conserve the most critical ecological services in the face of climate change effects. The IWAPs were previously selected and tested within the framework of the C6² Project in seven of the 15

¹ Gulf of Mexico Fund (Fondo Golfo de México, A.C.) in Veracruz; FONNOR, A.C. (the Northwestern Fund), in Jalisco; and El Triunfo Conservation Fund (Fondo de Conservación El Triunfo, A.C.), in Chiapas.

² C6 is the project "Coastal Watershed Conservation in the Context of Climate Change", supported by the Global Environment Facility, through the World Bank: <https://www.thegef.org/publications/good-practice-brief-integrated-coastal-watershed-conservation-mexico>

selected watersheds. These IWAPs are reinforced with a regenerative livestock component, and new IWAPs are developed with the same component. The IWAPs are expected to be a reference in the design or modification of instruments and policies related to sustainable livestock and agroforestry systems. Activities under this component include, among others, institutional capacity building and dialogue with key stakeholders in the watersheds at the regional and national levels, including the private sector.

- 2 Strengthening business skills for sustainable livestock and agroforestry.** This component strengthens formal and informal groups of sustainable livestock and agroforestry producers to increase their organizational and management capacity. Component 2 supports the provision of advisory services and technical assistance through the contracting of Local Technical Assistance Providers (PLAT, acronym in Spanish) to improve the management and organizational capacities of eligible beneficiaries to develop sustainable production business strategies (ENPS, acronym in Spanish). Beneficiaries can work at any stage of the production chain, including primary production (e.g., shade coffee), processing of sustainably produced meat/milk, and marketing in local, national, or international markets, as well as enterprises whose line of business adds value to the products, e.g., packaging cheese from sustainably produced milk or certified coffee.
- 3 Conservation, restoration, and implementation of climate-smart production practices in livestock and agroforestry landscapes.** The activities of this component include the implementation of actions defined in the IWAPs. This increases the area of conserved and restored habitats and promotes good environmental practices for livestock and agroforestry systems. CONECTA launched an open call for grants to Local Legally Constituted Organizations (OLLC³, acronym in Spanish) that group landowners that receive financing and technical assistance. The supported activities include regenerative livestock practices, agroforestry, forest management of timber and non-timber forest products, restoration actions, such as soil enrichment and forest restoration with native species, and conservation actions, including support for voluntary conservation areas and payment for environmental services programs. The proposals supported have a gender perspective and will offer differentiated attention to indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant populations.
- 4 Project coordination, collaboration and knowledge management.** This component focuses on project coordination and knowledge management. A national learning community promotes the exchange of knowledge and experience between basins. Forums in each state facilitate coordination between federal and local agencies, including the private sector. The forums organize training on topics of general interest, such as gender perspective or best labor practices.

³ For CONECTA, OLLC is any legally constituted association, group or organization with the capacity to receive, manage and apply resources in accordance with the law, and may be civil societies, social solidarity societies (SSS), limited liability rural production societies (SPR de RL), civil societies, academic institutions, Intermunicipal Boards, among others. Some of the aforementioned groups may sign contracts for the provision of services or donation contracts, depending on the legal status they have before the country's tax authorities. These OLLCs group beneficiaries that include local communities, small landowners and productive groups.

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