

ORIGEN

RESTAURACIÓN DE CUENCAS PARA
LOS ECOSISTEMAS Y LAS
COMUNIDADES



Photo: Héctor Moguel

Objective

The Restoring Watersheds for Ecosystems and Communities (ORIGEN) project seeks to maximize the ecosystem restoration impact and replication potential by coordinating restoration actions in watersheds of Chiapas, Jalisco, and Veracruz, with additional pilot projects in Guerrero, Nayarit, and Oaxaca.

Financed by the Global Environment Fund (GEF), under the GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program (PI GEF-8), with Conservation International (CI) as the implementing agency, the project will be conducted from 2025 to 2030 by the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (FMCN). The National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRICULTURA) will participate as government partners, and three regional funds¹ will support its implementation. This is the fifth GEF project executed by FMCN and will scale up interventions and impacts based on lessons learned from CONECTA² (GEF-7).



Map: ORIGEN's potential areas of intervention.

Components

- Component 1. Restoration planning with a watershed approach.** This component will support the development and/or strength of coordination mechanisms to serve as platforms that convene diverse stakeholders in planning processes to prioritize and guide conservation and restoration actions.

¹ El Triunfo Conservation Fund (Fondo de Conservación El Triunfo), in Chiapas and Oaxaca; Gulf of Mexico Fund (Fondo Golfo de México), in Veracruz; FONNOR (Northwestern and western Fund), in Jalisco, Nayarit, and Guerrero.

² CONECTA: Connecting Watershed Health with Sustainable Livestock and Agroforestry Production.

- 2 Component 2. Financing for the long-term sustainability of restoration.** This component will work closely with stakeholders to develop and implement financing mechanisms that support the long-term implementation of restoration plans, including the promotion of access to new markets for producer groups and community enterprises (value-added products) and innovative funding sources for restoration.
- 3 Component 3. Restoration of degraded areas.** This component will promote direct actions in productive and non-productive restoration by local initiatives through sub-projects. It also uses a Nature-based Solutions approach as a cost-effective measure to address climate change, land degradation, and biodiversity. It will focus on restoring ecosystem functions to enhance water availability, improve water quality, restore biodiversity, and reduce risks associated with climate change.
- 4 Component 4. Monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management for scaling.** This component will entail close coordination with multiple stakeholders to ensure project activities and results are appropriately monitored and evaluated and that knowledge management facilitates efficient information sharing at every project level. This will involve establishing an effective structure for project management, governance, and coordination, as well as monitoring and evaluation. It will also support learning communities (national and subnational) to facilitate knowledge exchange on restoration practices.

For ORIGEN, FMCN will apply its Environmental and Social Management System (SGAS) to minimize potential environmental and social risks and maximize positive impacts on ecosystems and community well-being. To achieve this, the SGAS establishes the development of a Stakeholders Engagement Plan (PPPI); a Grievance Redress Mechanism at the project level (MAQ); a Participation Plan for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican Population (PPI), and a Gender Action Plan. These documents will be dynamic and adjusted according to lessons learned during project implementation for continuous improvement.

Currently, ORIGEN is in the design process and will be submitted for approval by the GEF Secretariat, with implementation expected to begin in 2025.

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