Mexico National Payments for Ecosystem Services
A Case Study

Programas Nacionales de Pagos por Servicios Ambientales, Comisión Nacional Forestal de México

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Context

- Mexico is covered by 50% Forest (138 Million Ha)
- >60% of the forested land is communally held
- Mexico participated in the following international environmental agreements: Kyoto, CBD, etc.
- New National Forestry Law created CONAFOR in 2000
- Important actors recognized a political opportunity with PES and drew from other PES programs
PES Timeline

- 2003 PSAH
- 2004 PSA-CABSA
- 2006 PROARBOL
- 2007 PSA
- 2008 Local Mechanisms PSA
- 2009 FPB
- 2013 PRONAFOR
- 2016 Revision of Guidelines (All Programs)

* World Bank Financing 2006 & 2012
Mexico’s Three Main Programs

**National PES program**
- Enrollment: Landowners directly enrolled
- Targeting: Only to eligible zones
- Contract Length: 5 years
- Federal Budget
- Federal Law of Rights

**Local PES Mechanisms through Matching Funds**
- Enrollment: Enrollment of direct and indirect users
- Targeting: Defined by the users
- Contract Length: 1-5 years
- Federal Budget
- Funding from businesses and local government
- Electricity and tourism sectors

**Biodiversity Heritage Fund**
- Enrollment: Landowners directly enrolled
- Targeting: Strictly defined eligible zones
- Contract Length: 30 years with 5 year renewals
- Federal Budget
- Global Environment Facility donation
### Program Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National PES Program</th>
<th>Local PES Mechanisms</th>
<th>Biodiversity Heritage Fund</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Succeeded in targeting areas with high marginalization and environmental importance</td>
<td>✓ Promoted public-private partnerships</td>
<td>✓ Increased conservation monitoring</td>
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<td>✓ Decrease in deforestation rates (varies depending on location)</td>
<td>✓ Attracted non-governmental financing (over 125 programs)</td>
<td>✓ Confirmation of 5 of 6 big cat species found in Mexico</td>
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<td>✓ Increase in forest management activities and temporary employment</td>
<td>✓ Increased the amount of payment to the providers</td>
<td>✓ Multistakeholder involvement</td>
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<td>✓ 29,652 ha enrolled</td>
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- **Biodiversity Heritage Fund**
  - Increased conservation monitoring
  - Confirmation of 5 of 6 big cat species found in Mexico
  - Multistakeholder involvement
  - 29,652 ha enrolled
Program Challenges and Achievements

- Many approaches but continued challenge to adapt them to local contexts
- Encourage inclusion and diversify actors involved
- Increase awareness of the program
- Increase resistance to political pressure and changes
- Strengthen local capacity to decrease dependence on intermediaries

Photo Credit: CONAFOR
Reflections

- Maintaining centralized government involvement while moving to involve local actors and encourage private investment

- Maintaining focus on the provision of ES while recognizing the social context

- In general, PES programs run by governments are susceptible to political pressure and changes
¡Gracias!
References


CONAFOR. (2012). National Forestry Commission and Payments for Ecosystem Services in Mexico. Powerpoint. SEMARNAT.


Payments for Ecosystem Services Defined

According to Wunder et al. 2005, PES can be defined as:

“A voluntary transaction where, a well defined environmental service or a land use likely to secure that service is being bought by a (minimum one) service buyer from a (minimum one) service provider if and only if the service provider secures service provision (conditionality).”

What happens when the model hits the messiness of the real world?