



A tourist drinks water from a river in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, thanks to the ecosystem services and functions that the site provides for the well-being and health of people and biodiversity.

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# Mexico's Roadmap to meet or overcome Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

## Executive Summary

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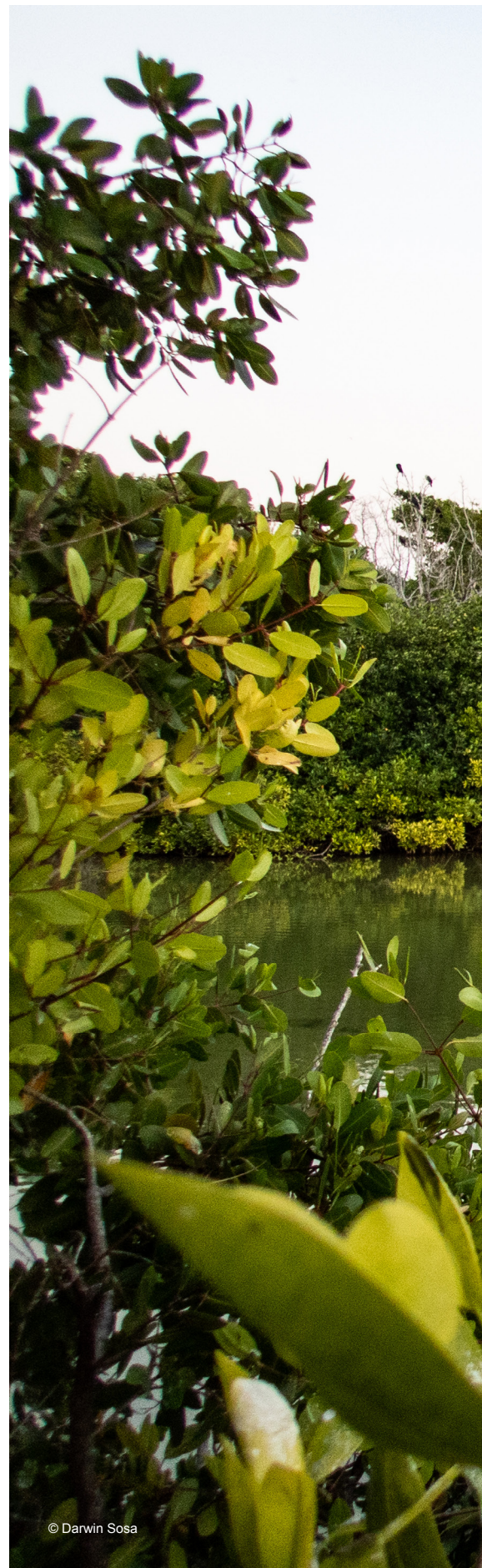
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Mangrove photographed by a resident of the community of Dzilam de Bravo in Yucatán, Mexico. Through activities such as participatory/collaborative photography workshops, local governance in the area is improved and actions to conserve biodiversity are strengthened.



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**After 40 years of regenerative holistic livestock farming, Rancho La Inmaculada de Los Aguirre is currently a Wildlife Conservation Management Unit for mule deer, which has managed to restore and preserve around 7,200 hectares of the Sonoran Desert.**

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# Prologue

In December 2022, during the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the international community adopted the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), an instrument that sets a global agenda to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. Among its objectives, Target 3 stands out, known as 30x30, which aims to ensure the conservation of at least 30% of terrestrial and marine areas through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), consolidating inclusive, representative, and functional conservation networks.

Aligned with this global commitment, Mexico developed the Roadmap to meet or exceed the 30x30 Target. This tool not only provides technical guidance for public action but also serves as a dynamic territorial management instrument that recognizes the central role of the communities and of those who inhabit and care for the territories. Its biocultural and human-centered conservation approach reaffirms the role of communities as strategic allies in achieving Target 3, integrating local knowledge, biocultural diversity, and social participation in decision-making.

The publication of this Roadmap was made possible through the collaboration of SEMARNAT, CONANP, WWF, and GEF, as well as a broad participatory process that included interviews, workshops, and questionnaires. Through these actions, the perspectives of Indigenous peoples, Afro-Mexican communities, women, youth, local governments, academia, and civil society organizations were incorporated, ensuring that the Roadmap reflects the plurality of actors involved in the territory and who shape conservation in Mexico on a daily basis.

The participatory process helped consolidate a fundamental lesson: conservation is only effective when it is built in a fair and inclusive manner, with full respect for the rights of those who inhabit the territories. In this sense, Mexico reaffirms its commitment to Indigenous peoples and communities who have been ancestral guardians of life and biodiversity. The Roadmap recognizes the importance of their territories and sacred sites, and reclaims the profound interconnection between biological and cultural diversity that characterizes the country.

OECMs—defined as geographically delimited areas which, while not designated as protected natural areas, have effective management that contributes to the in situ conservation of biodiversity, the safeguarding of ecosystem functions, and associated cultural values—represent in Mexico a strategic opportunity to recognize the diversity of community, private, and social conservation initiatives. They include efforts to protect agrobiodiversity and other models of sustainable management developed under different land tenure regimes, thereby reflecting the territorial complexity and biocultural richness of the country.

Thus, OECMs and Protected Natural Areas become spaces of shared responsibility and hope, where wildlife and human presence converge, alongside memory and territorial knowledge. This document is an invitation to collective action, a renewed pact between society and nature based on human rights, equity, transparency, and sustainability. Achieving the 30x30 Target is a moral commitment to life, to our history, and to future generations, grounded in a vision that places communities who safeguard ecosystems at the center. In this sense, OECMs complement and strengthen Protected Natural Areas, improving their ecological connectivity and forming a conservation mosaic that integrates biodiversity, culture, and communities as guardians of the territory. Conservation is understood not as an end, but as a means toward advancing well-being, environmental justice, and hope.

This Roadmap shows that conservation and territorial management are a shared responsibility and a commitment to life. This tool broadens our understanding and appreciation of Mexico's natural and cultural wealth and, while acknowledging the challenges of achieving Target 3, it highlights the opportunities to strengthen the bond between communities and ecosystems. For this reason, the Roadmap calls for informed, conscious, and co-responsible participation from all social and institutional actors, so that together we may assume the stewardship of the territory and build a future in which nature and communities thrive in balance—guided by equity, environmental justice, and a profound respect for life.

**Pedro Carlos Álvarez Icaza Longoria**

Head of the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas



**The sighting of blue whales in the Baja California Peninsula highlights the importance of Mexican marine ecosystems for the conservation of species and ecosystem services and functions.**

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# 30x30: Preserving global biodiversity

In December 2022, during the Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) was adopted. This agreement represents a significant milestone in global efforts to protect life on Earth and ensure a sustainable future. The KMGBF sets four goals and twenty-three targets for 2030, including Target 3, known as the 30x30 Target, which states:

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories (CBD/COP/DEC/15/4).

In order to assist Parties in the implementation of this Target, the **Project “Collaborative National Planning for an Inclusive and Effective Conservation Approach to Reaching Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3”** was created, a project financed by the GEF to support the development of inclusive and equitable initiatives to achieve and overcome Target 3 in Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal and Zimbabwe. In Mexico, this project was led by the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT, for its acronym in Spanish) as the political focal point and by the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP, for its acronym in Spanish) as the technical focal point, with the support of WWF as the implementing agency.

During the year 2023, analyses were conducted on gaps in geographic information systems, funding sources, benefits and co-benefits, factors that could affect the implementation and fulfillment of Target 3, as well as regional workshops and webinars for the collection of contributions from representatives of the federal

government, subnational governments, indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples, women, youth, academia and civil society in general, which allowed identifying challenges and opportunities for Mexico on its way to meeting this Target. The final result of this participatory and science-based process is the present **“Roadmap for Collaborative National Planning for an Inclusive and Effective Conservation Approach to Reaching Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3”**, which promotes the actions that Mexico should foster to achieve 30% of inclusive, equitable and effective conservation of its biodiversity by 2030, through the consolidation, expansion and improvement of protected areas (PAs), as well as the official recognition of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

**The 30x30 is a global target that represents a minimum, not a maximum conservation limit.**

**Figure 1.**

Schematic representation of Target 3 or 30x30.



Source: Own creation. Modified from WWF and IUCN-WCPA, 2023.

# The road traveled: Mexico in action

As the fifth most megadiverse country in the world, with approximately 12% of the world's biodiversity,<sup>1</sup> Mexico is one of the countries that have developed the greatest leadership within the CBD. In the last decade, the country has joined forces to comply with Aichi Target 11<sup>2</sup> on *in situ* conservation, which called for protecting 17% of its terrestrial territory and 10% of its marine area. Meanwhile, the current Target 3 (Fig. 1) of the KMGBF goes beyond percentages, promoting inclusive, equitable and effective conservation through Area Based Conservation (ABC) measures, such as PAs and OECMs, and considering not only environmental but also social considerations.

In this context, the Mexican government has a track record of remarkable efforts in biodiversity conservation, which align with the qualitative elements of Target 3. These efforts include:



## **Recognition and participation of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican Communities**

The government guarantees the recognition and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities, promoting their direct involvement as the main custodians of the territory in the conservation of the PAs.



## **Gender equality in conservation**

Currently, CONANP incorporates guidelines for gender equity in subsidiary programs such as the Program of Conservation for Sustainable Development (PROCOCODES,<sup>1</sup> for its acronym in Spanish) and the Program for the Protection and Restoration of Priority Ecosystems and Species (PROREST,<sup>2</sup> for its acronym in Spanish) recognizing the role of women in nature conservation.



## **Voluntary conservation governance schemes**

For more than 15 years, Mexico has been promoting public, private, community or hybrid governance schemes in conservation through the recognition in legislation of Areas Voluntarily Destined for Conservation (ADVC, for its acronym in Spanish).



## **Advisory councils and inclusive governance schemes in the PAs**

There are 122 Advisory Councils in the PAs that ensure participatory and inclusive management, involving representatives of indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities in decision-making.

<sup>1</sup>CONABIO, 2023. Biodiversidad Mexicana: México Megadiverso.

<sup>2</sup> By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10% of marine and coastal areas, especially those of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, will be conserved through effectively and equitably managed protected area systems, ecologically representative and well-connected, and other effective area-based conservation measures, and these will be integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.



### **Sustainable economic development**

The Program of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PSA, for its acronym in Spanish) of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR, for its acronym in Spanish) prioritizes areas with ecosystems in a good degree of conservation and priority regions for biodiversity.



### **Financial mechanisms for sustainability**

Financial mechanisms for sustainability have been implemented in the PAs, such as the Natural Protected Areas Fund (FANP, for its acronym in Spanish) and the determination of user's fee for PAs.



### **Management effectiveness evaluation of PAs<sup>3</sup>**

Mexico evaluates the effectiveness of the management of its federal PAs every three years through the "i-efectividad" system. Currently 128 PAs have Management Programs, of which 90% (115) have already been analyzed under the i-efectividad system.



### **Promotion of biological corridors**

To promote connectivity between its PAs, Mexico promotes terrestrial and marine biological corridors, such as the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and the Biocultural Corridor of the Central West of Mexico (COBIOCOM, for its acronym in Spanish).



### **Index of Ecological Integrity (IEI)**

55.6% of the national territory (109,162,218 hectares) has an IEI greater than 0.9, representing a significant area for the conservation of Mexican biodiversity.



### **Status of PA management effectiveness**

The current outlook reveals, through the i-efectividad tool, that 24% of PAs have outstanding management; 44% of PAs are highly effective in the administrative and financial component and 24% and 30% have excellent management in uses and benefits, governance and social participation, respectively.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> i-efectividad is a system that evaluates management effectiveness through five components and 48 indicators that allow identifying areas of opportunity and improving the management of federal PAs. Source: <https://www.gob.mx/conanp/acciones-y-programas/programas-de-manejo>

<sup>4</sup> CONANP (2023). Evaluación de la Efectividad del Manejo de las Áreas Naturales Protegidas de México: Segundo Informe Nacional. Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, SEMARNAT. México.

# Challenges towards 30x30

Mexico faces a significant challenge regarding allocating resources for environmental protection; currently, only 0.7% of public spending is allocated to environmental protection, while the cost of environmental depletion and degradation is equivalent to 4.6% of GDP.<sup>5</sup> The challenge is to ensure financial sustainability, allocating resources by strengthening the concepts that contribute to conservation in the Federal Expenditure Budget, complementing it with financing from international cooperation and the private sector.



Less than 30% of Mexico's ecosystems are under protection.

Regarding representativeness, 78% of the marine, inland and terrestrial ecosystems in Mexico are underrepresented within the federal and subnational Protected Areas;<sup>6</sup> that is, less than 30% of the total area of each of these ecosystems is protected. In terms of connectivity, the lack of mechanisms to reduce ecosystem fragmentation results in edge effects<sup>7</sup> that still affect PAs.<sup>8</sup> Although Mexico's National Biodiversity Strategy (ENBioMex, for its acronym in Spanish) and its 2016-2030 Action Plan include specific actions to improve connectivity, a legal framework is still required to ensure connectivity between PAs (new and existing) and OECMs. Currently, Mexico does not have a precise quantification of fragmentation and degradation to address these challenges.<sup>9</sup>

products, fires, pests and diseases, and inadequate forest management practices, contributed to the loss of 3.1% of forest area loss in 2020 and 2021.

New or existing conservation schemes must rescue the cultural value of Mexico reflected in the conditions of its territory. In Mexico, 71% of indigenous territories overlap with priority terrestrial regions (PTRs),<sup>10</sup> within which only 26.3% correspond to PAs. The challenge means ensuring that women, youth, and indigenous people are part of the decision-making on conservation that is carried out in their territories.



Hectares deforested annually

Another important challenge of the last two decades (2001-2021) is the high deforestation rate of 208,850 hectares per year (ha/year) (CONAFOR, 2022). The main cause is the conversion of forest land to pastures for livestock and cropland, which together with illegal logging, illegal trade of raw materials and forest

<sup>5</sup> Conservation Strategy Fund, Vo.Bo. Asesores y WWF México (2023). Reporte 2. Brechas financieras y fuentes de financiamiento para cumplimiento de la Meta 3 en México.

<sup>6</sup> Conservation Strategy Fund, Vo.Bo. Asesores y WWF México (2023). Reporte 1.1 Disponibilidad de información espacial para evaluar el cumplimiento de la Meta 3.

<sup>7</sup> CONABIO (2020). They refer to changes in the composition, structure, and function of vegetation near ecosystem boundaries, such as forest edges. These changes affect the abundance of species and their ecological interactions.

<sup>8</sup> Conservation Strategy Fund, Vo.Bo. Asesores y WWF México (2023). Reporte 4. Factores que podrían afectar el cumplimiento de la Meta 3.

<sup>9</sup> Conservation Strategy Fund, Vo.Bo. Asesores y WWF México (2023). Reporte 1. Disponibilidad de información espacial para evaluar el progreso del cumplimiento de la Meta

<sup>10</sup> Arriaga, L., J.M. Espinoza, C. Aguilar, E. Martínez, L. Gómez y E. Loa (2000). Regiones terrestres prioritarias de México. Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, México



**Through sustainable management and use, beekeeping in PAs in Mexico promotes the conservation of biodiversity.**

© CONANP / Mary Paz Chávez



Thousands of Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) fill the sky at the Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary in El Rosario, Michoacán, Mexico. El Rosario is an example of a priority conservation area with a mixed governance system between local communities and the federal government.

© WWF-US / McDonald Mirabile

# Tools to meet Target 3:

## I) Protected Areas

In Mexico, since 1917, PAs have been the main public policy instrument for the protection of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystem services. It is estimated that the PAs contribute around 2.35 billion US dollars annually to the agricultural sector, providing services such as water retention for irrigation, animal pollination and savings in draining costs.<sup>11</sup> Depending on their management category, as well as their internal subzoning, PAs promote the implementation of activities for the sustainable use of biodiversity.

On the other hand, the ADVCs are PAs under federal jurisdiction that are established voluntarily and at the request of their owners, who receive a certificate, 15 to 99 years old of validity, which allows them to access national and international incentives and greater certainty to the owners regarding the governance of the zone. Some of the sustainable resource use activities carried out in the ADVCs include the production of native corn, traditional vegetable production, handicrafts, livestock

under agroforestry and grazing management, cynegetic hunting, organic coffee and honey production, pine resin harvesting and ecotourism, among others.

Currently, CONANP administers 609 ADVCs and 232 federal PAs,<sup>12</sup> of the latter, 192 are in terrestrial and fresh-water ecosystems, 31 PAs have a coastal-marine area and nine are exclusively marine (Table 1). Conservation efforts through PAs are also conducted at the subnational level, both in states and municipalities.

<sup>11</sup> WWF y Vo. Bo. Asesores (2023). Reporte 3: Brechas de beneficios y co-beneficios con respecto a la Meta 3.



<sup>12</sup> Official data updated to October 2024.



**Table 1.**

Area of the national territory conserved through PAs.

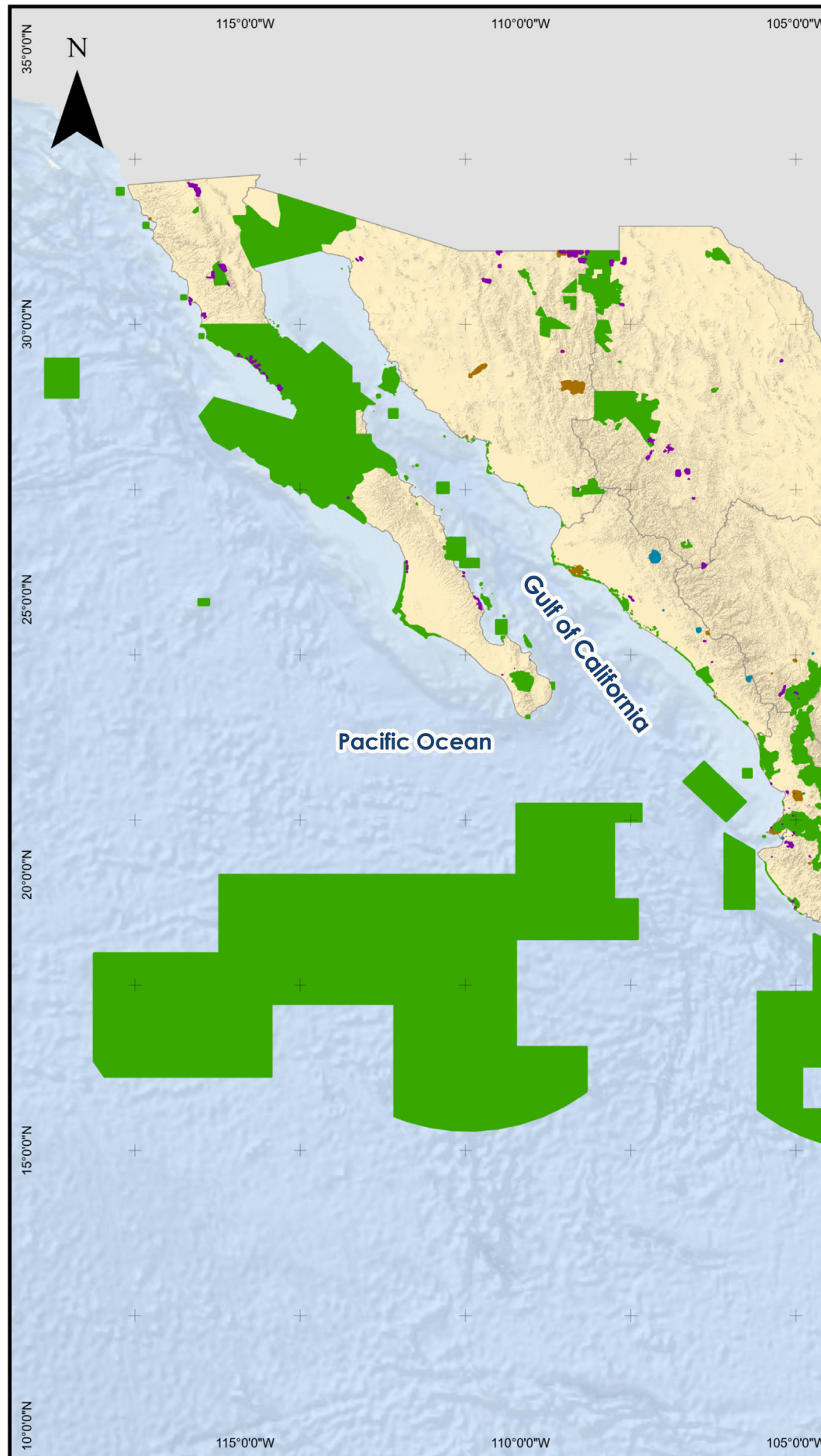
Source: CONANP, 2025

Environmental Policy Instrument	Protected area (ha)	% of the national territory (INEGI)
<p><b>Marine</b> </p> <hr/> <p>Federal Protected Areas</p>	74,904,155.39	23.78%
<p><b>Total Marine Area</b></p>	<b>74,904,155.39</b>	<b>23.78%</b>
<p><b>Terrestrial</b> </p> <hr/> <p>Federal Protected Areas</p>	23,096,563.19	11.76%
<p>Areas Voluntarily Destined for Conservation</p>	1,314,598.42	0.67%
<p>State Protected Areas</p>	3,656,700.37	1.86%
<p>Municipal Protected Areas</p>	197,385.97	0.10%
<p><b>Total Terrestrial Area</b></p>	<b>28,265,247.95</b>	<b>14.39%</b>

## Figure 2.

The protected areas in Mexico at the federal and sub-national levels represent 14.39% of the terrestrial and aquatic surface and 23.78% of the marine surface.

Source: Own elaboration based on CONANP data.

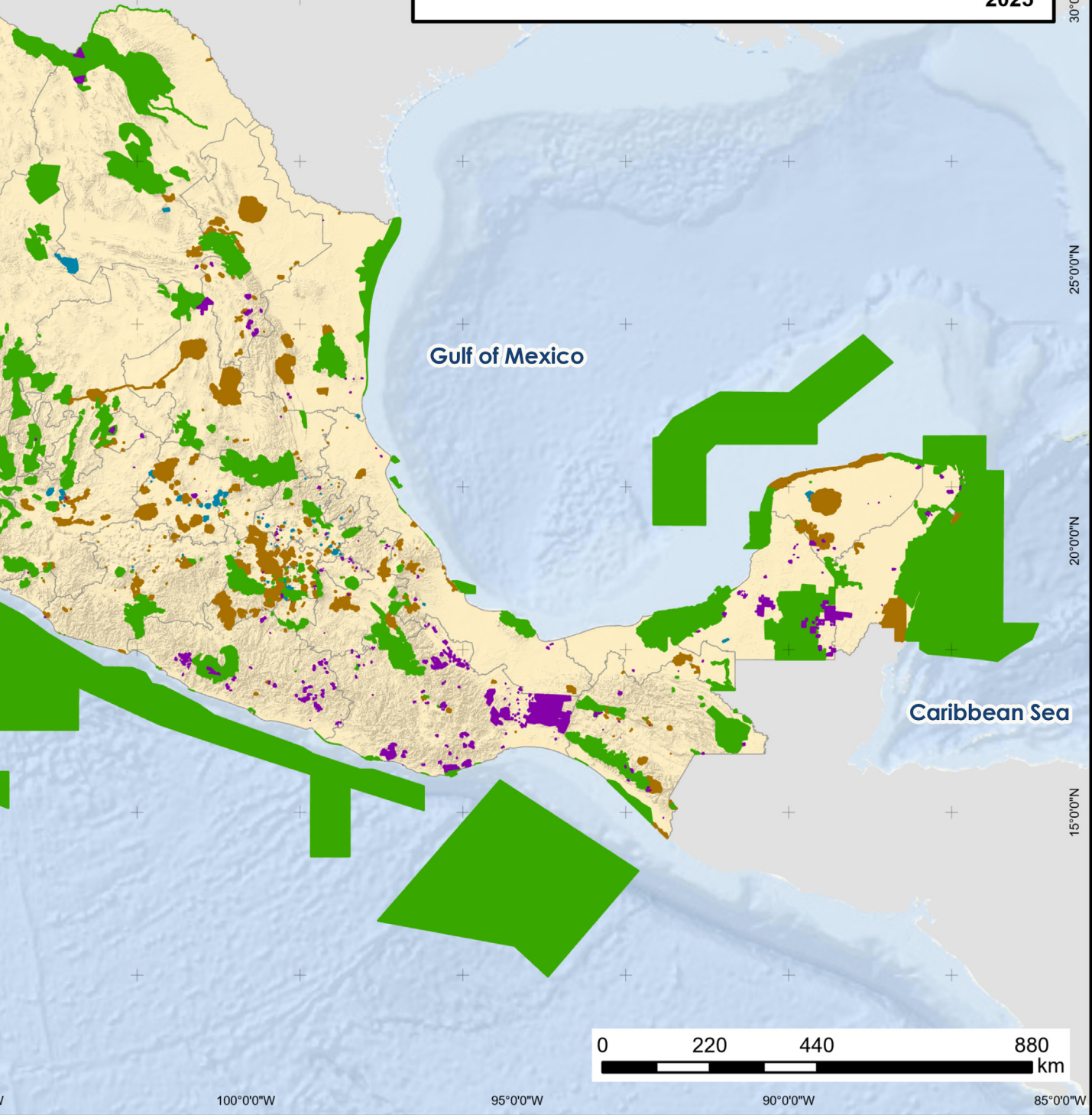


# United States of America

## Symbology

-  Federal Protected Areas
-  Areas Voluntarily Destined for Conservation
-  State Protected Areas
-  Municipal Protected Areas

2025



# Tools to meet Target 3:

## II) Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)

OECMs are defined as:

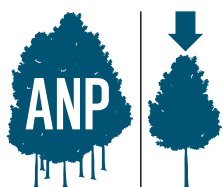
“A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values” (CBD/COP/DEC/14/8).

The recognition of voluntary conservation on private, ejido and communal lands in Mexico began with the ADVCS. Unlike PAs, whose primary purpose is conservation, OECMs can be managed for cultural, spiritual, or socio-economic purposes, where conservation may be one of the outcomes but not necessarily the primary goal.

OECMs recognize management efforts that benefit biodiversity in diverse geographic contexts and rep-

resent a great opportunity to recognize and value the contributions of indigenous and traditional territories. OECMs are not created, OECMs are zones that currently exist and have positive contributions to the conservation of biodiversity in the long term, it is essential to recognize, record and monitor these efforts.

**For an area to be recognized as an OECM**, it is necessary to obtain the written consent of all the actors involved and meet the following criteria:<sup>13</sup>



The area must **NOT** be within an existing PA.



It must achieve **effective and sustained long-term *in situ* biodiversity** conservation.



**It must be governed and managed;** those areas that do not meet this condition can be considered as potential PAs.



It must have significant cultural, spiritual, and/or socio-economic **values**.







Sandy Jazmín Zapata Marruto is part of the night fishing activity, which involves the use of spider crabs as bait to catch octopus. This low-impact, traditional practice enables women to play an active role in the stewardship of coastal-marine ecosystems in San Felipe, Yucatán, Mexico.


© Jason Houston / WWF-US




As they are voluntary conservation mechanisms, each country can promote additional specific criteria appropriate to its own context, to improve the identification of OECMs and enhance its recognition and maintenance in the long term.

In the process of developing this Roadmap, preliminary analyses were carried out to quickly identify different area-based conservation measures that could be candidate OECMs.

**Potential terrestrial and marine OECMs** 

-  **47** area-based conservation measures were identified as potential OECMs with various ownership models and sustainable production schemes.
-  They represent : 10,230,532.7 ha, **4.3%** of the terrestrial national territory.
-  3,779,704 ha are associated with a governance system of ejidos and agrarian nuclei.

**Potential marine OECMs** 

-  1,320 polygons were identified as potential OECMs with **15<sup>14</sup>** coastal and marine area-based conservation measures as potential OECMs.
-  They represent: 15,131,832 ha, **4%** of the marine national area.
-  An example of potential marine OECMs is the Fishing Refuge Zones.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup> IUCN-WCPA Task Force on OECMs, (2019). Recognizing and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

<sup>14</sup> Of these 15, 10 are recognized instruments within environmental policy and national legal framework, while 5 do not have a formal legal framework in Mexico.

<sup>15</sup> General Law on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (LGPAS, for its acronym in Spanish).

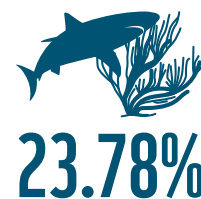
# Exploring opportunities: Mexico's commitment to 30x30

Thanks to its great variety of ecosystems, species, and cultural diversity, Mexico has many unique opportunities for conservation. For example, there are still sites identified as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) that are not included in the PAs and that represent 43.8% of the national territory.<sup>16</sup> New OECMs and PAs therefore deserve to be promoted, recognized and supported as a priority at the national level, while ensuring connectivity between existing and new PAs.

Similarly, **the recognition of indigenous and traditional territories** and **equitable governance** are fundamental to achieving Target 3. In Mexico, half of the indigenous territories are in the ten states considered the richest in biological terms. The 46.44% of the PAs overlap with ejido properties and the 7.87% with communal territories, and the 40% of the zones that currently contribute to conservation as potential OECMs are under a governance system associated with indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities.<sup>17</sup> These land ownership figures highlight the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples, ejidos and agrarian communities, productive and cultural groups in conservation, especially to favor co-management, which is contemplated by Mexican legislation,<sup>18</sup> not only by indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities, but also by other actors not always involved with conservation.

On the other hand, strategies to conserve agrobiodiversity and ecosystem services related to human food have prioritized methods outside the natural environment in Mexico, ignoring local management, sustainable use, and associated traditional knowledge. OECMs offer an innovative alternative by allowing conservation in their original environment, respecting the community management of resources by indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities.

Target 3 offers a crucial opportunity to effectively implement the other targets of the KMGBF, many of which share similar actors and resources. Optimizing these resources and preventing duplication of effort are key opportunities that are reflected in the design of this Roadmap.



Currently, PAs conserve 14.39% of the earth's land surface, and 23.78% of the marine surface.

<sup>16</sup> Analysis carried out with information from CONABIO. Geoinformation Portal 2023. <http://www.conabio.gob.mx/informacion/gis/>

<sup>17</sup> Information resulting from the participatory consultation process at the national level carried out through the GEF Project Target 3.

<sup>18</sup> Article 67 of the General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection (LGEEPA, for its acronym in Spanish).



Guadalupe Núñez, a member of the Cocoloba group, is an exemplary case study of women's involvement in sustainable initiatives that reinforce governance and advance gender equality, with notable outcomes for biodiversity. She plays an active role in the operations of the community nursery, where native plants are cultivated in Yucatán, Mexico.



# A Roadmap for Mexico

This Roadmap is a guide for the implementation of Target 3. It is built in a participatory manner and it establishes a clear path towards specific objectives, with milestones and deadlines that guide the country to meet and even overcome Target 3 of the KMGBF by 2030, facilitating the allocation of resources, responsibilities and the evaluation of progress.

This Roadmap (Figure 3) is made up of **76 strategic actions organized into five quantitative and qualitative elements** derived from **Target 3**.

1. Management Effectiveness
2. Equitable Governance
3. Area and zones of importance for biodiversity, their representativeness and connectivity
4. Contributions from indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities
5. Sustainable Use

Each strategic action contributes not only to the elements of Target 3, but also to creating enabling conditions that are vital to the success of PAs and OECMs. Five enabling conditions are identified, including financial, public policy, governance, information generation, institutional strengthening, and communication.

All actions are organized into three agendas on which the implementation of Target 3 materializes and lands:

1. PAs Agenda
2. OECMs Agenda
3. Inter-Ministerial Agenda



It is important to ensure that PAs and OECMs represent the full range of Mexican ecosystems. Given that two-thirds of the country's territory is classified as arid or semi-arid, there is a clear need to enhance the representation of deserts and scrublands within Mexico's PAs.

© Day's Edge / WWF-US

The actions of the PA Agenda are focused on ensuring the effective management of existing PAs and their financial sustainability, as well as guiding the creation of new PAs under principles of connectivity, representativeness, and inclusion. The actions of the OECM Agenda are focused on guaranteeing the recognition, registration, evaluation, effective monitoring, and reporting of OECMs. Finally, actions have been identified that will contribute in a comprehensive way to the PAs and OECMs, so these actions are classified under the Inter-ministerial Agenda.

To facilitate decision-making and compliance with the Roadmap, **sixteen triggering actions** are highlighted, which have a greater impact on the achievement of the objectives and allocation of resources accordingly. Since resources are limited, they need to be allocated in a transparent, efficient, and effective manner.

Regarding PAs, a triggering action includes the implementation of the Third Cycle in 2025 and the Fourth Cycle in the period 2028-2029 of the Application of the System for the Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Management of Federal PAs (2024-2025) and strengthening the expansion of advisory councils within PAs. It also seeks to promote the decree of new strategic subnational PAs, as well as the creation of a mecha-

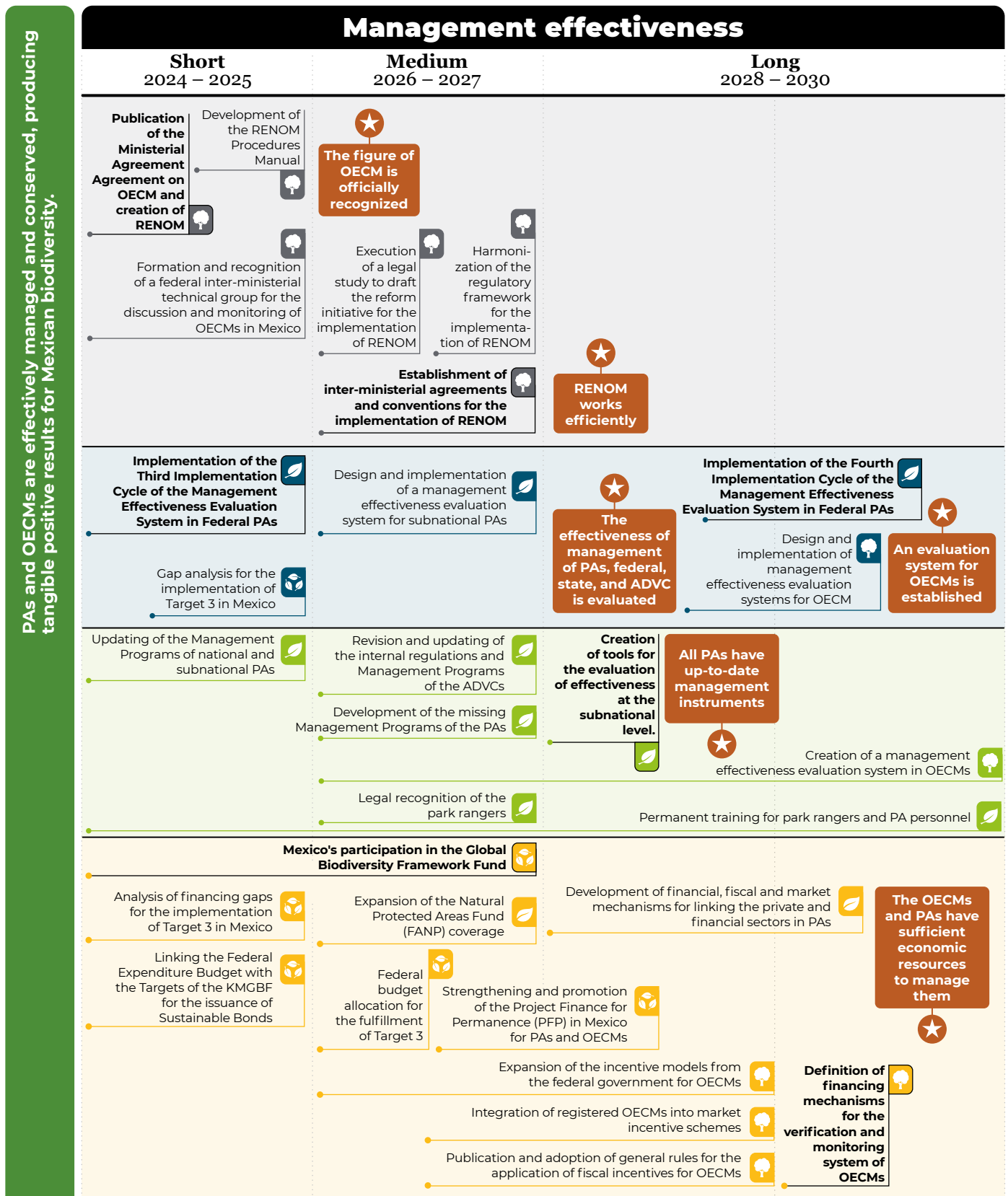
nism to measure effective management at the subnational level.

For the OECMs agenda, among the detonating actions that this Roadmap proposes is the creation of the National Registry of Other Effective Conservation Measures of Mexico (RENOM, for its acronym in Spanish), which will be the sole and official instrument to report Mexico's progress towards the fulfillment of Target 3, which depends on the publication of a Ministerial Agreement on OECM in the Official Federal Gazette. This agreement should define the concept of OECM for Mexican legislation to adopt, as well as lay the foundations for the identification, recognition, and monitoring of this instrument. Finally, the development of financing mechanisms for the verification and monitoring system of OECMs is also foreseen, as well as the harmonization of the Mexican legal framework with RENOM.

It is worth mentioning that this Roadmap seeks to ensure the inclusion of Target 3 in other strategic public policy instruments and sectoral plans. Target 3 is crucial to address gaps and omissions in conservation in Mexico and should be addressed alongside Target 1 and Target 2 to meet the KMGBF.

**Figure 3.**






Outline of the Roadmap for the implementation of Target 3 in Mexico.






PAs and OECMs are effectively managed and conserved, producing tangible positive results for Mexican biodiversity.

# Symbolism




## Enabling conditions

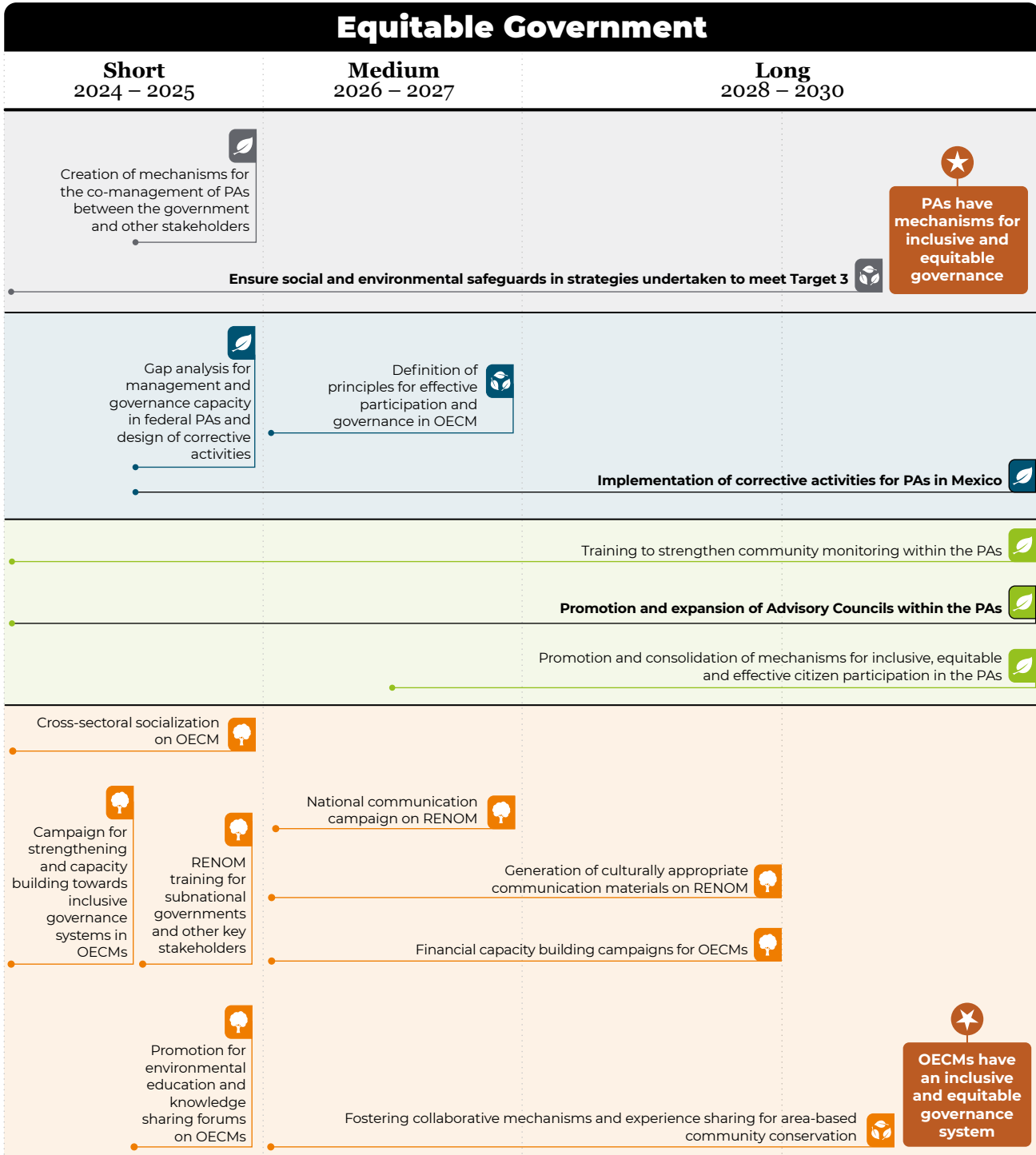
-  Harmonization and articulation of public policies
-  Updating, generating and systematizing information
-  Strengthening capacities for management
-  Resource mobilization with a focus on financial sustainability
-  Communication

## Agenda

-  PA
-  OECM
-  Inter-Ministerial






## Event

-  Milestone
-  Detonating action
-  Objetivo por componente



PAs and OECMs enable inclusive and equitable participation in decision making, transparent procedures and access to justice in conflict situations.




## Enabling conditions

-  Harmonization and articulation of public policies
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## Evento

-  Milestone
-  Detonating action
-  Objetivo por componente

# Area and zones of importance for biodiversity, their representativeness and connectivity

**Short**  
2024 – 2025

**Medium**  
2026 – 2027

**Long**  
2028 – 2030

Amendments to the LGEEPA and its corresponding regulations to introduce the concepts: "Biological Corridor", "Biocultural Reserves" and "OECM"

Definition of OECMs for Mexico, development of criteria and steps for its recognition

Inclusion of OECMs in strategic public policy instruments and sectoral plans

Inclusion of Target 3 in the National Development Plan (NDP)

Inclusion of OECMs as part of state biodiversity strategies and state development plans

Recognition of OECMs in areas of biodiversity importance and corridors

Prioritize the recognition of OECMs in Key Biodiversity Areas and biological corridors.

Alignment of Target 3 with ENBioMex

Creation of a federal program to meet Target 3

Promote the decreeing of new strategic subnational PAs

Decrees of new strategic federal PAs in areas of importance for biodiversity and corridors

**A representativeness of more than 30% is achieved for each ecosystem**

**Target 3 is included in national, subnational and public policy planning**

Expansion and consolidation of the Platform: National System for the Consultation of Ecological Connectivity (Bioconnect Project)

Updating and development of cost-benefit assessment studies and valuation of ecosystem services of PAs

Updating of the National Atlas of Vulnerability to Climate Change for species in the PAs

Creation of a single registry for subnational PAs and updating of relevant information

Integration of relevant information within the OECMs into the Agrodiversity Information System (SIAGroBD, for its acronym in Spanish) and creation of seed banks

**Strengthening key biological corridors for maintaining Mexico's biodiversity**

**Integration of information on OECM into the Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME) through the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)**










Integration of information on OECM into the Information, Monitoring and Evaluation System for Conservation (SIMEC, for its acronym in Spanish)

Promotion of scientific research and dissemination of knowledge on biodiversity in the identified OECMs

**Promotion and support for the establishment of new ADVCs**











The PAs and OECMs are located in areas with a great wealth of biodiversity, areas with habitats of special importance and that are important for preserving ecosystem functions and services, managing to protect at least 30% of the terrestrial, aquatic and coastal-marine area at the national level.

## Sustainable use

Short 2024 – 2025	Medium 2026 – 2027	Long 2028 – 2030
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of national certification and labeling programs from OECM </li> <li>Establishment of a robust regulatory framework for ecotourism and the assessment of its environmental impact </li> </ul>	<p> There is a national regulatory framework to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity</p>
<p>Recognition and communication of good practices for the sustainable use of biodiversity </p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training for the implementation of good practices for activities related to agrobiodiversity and sustainable productive activities within the PAs and in their areas of influence </li> </ul>	<p> The private sector implements actions related to the sustainable use of biodiversity</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of productive activities compatible within the OECMs with the Sustainable Taxonomy of Mexico </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of a green jobs program within the PAs </li> <li>Fostering sustainable value chains for sustainable production activities carried out within OECMs </li> </ul>

The PAs and OECMs recognize the traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity, innovation, worldviews, values, and practices of indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples.

## Contributions from indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities

Short 2024 – 2025	Medium 2026 – 2027	Long 2028 – 2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration into RENOM of pilgrimage sites and other sites of cultural value proposed by indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities. </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Socialization, communication and training for communities on the existence of subnational PAs </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration of representatives of indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples of the OECM Technical Committee </li> <li>Strengthening and capacity building to systematize traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples for biodiversity and agrobiodiversity conservation </li> </ul>
<p>Development of exclusive incentives for OECM with biocultural values </p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of national certification and labeling programs from OECMs. </li> <li>Establishment of a robust regulatory framework for ecotourism and environmental impact assessment. </li> <li>Translation of the Roadmap into strategic indigenous languages </li> </ul>	<p> There is effective and culturally appropriate dissemination of the Roadmap content</p>
<p>Implementation of a communication strategy on Target 3 in culturally appropriate media. </p>		

The activities carried out within the limits of the PAs and the OECMs are sustainable and consistent with the objectives of nature conservation in Mexico.

# Environmental and social safeguards

The following are the **fundamental principles** for the implementation of the Roadmap and the derived public policies:



## **Equitable benefit-sharing**

Ensure fair and equitable benefits for indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities from the use of biodiversity in their territories.



## **Human rights approach**

Recognize the close relationship between human rights, health and the environment.



## **Territoriality**

Ensure legal recognition and territorial rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities over their traditional territories.



## **Intergenerational equity and sustainability**

Emphasize the urgency of conserving and sustainably using biodiversity so as not to compromise future needs and promote youth participation in decision making.



## **Consent and transparency**

Ensure free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) in the recognition, monitoring, and reporting of OECMs, especially in indigenous, ejido and communal territories.



## **Shared government-society responsibility**

Recognize the need for cooperation between all levels of government and social actors to meet Target 3.



The fieldwork conducted in partnership with community brigadistas from Lacanjá Chansayab plays an essential role in preventing the fragmentation of ecosystems in the Selva Lacandona, Chiapas. These activities are made possible thanks to the support of Project Bioconnect. The training provided strengthens governance in areas of importance for biodiversity, thereby enhancing ecosystem connectivity.

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**Biodiversity mainstreaming**

Integrate and harmonize biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in policies, legislation and planning, linking it with sectors such as agriculture, tourism, production, finance and academia.



**Inclusive and equitable governance**

Ensure equal participation of all stakeholders in decision making on OECMs and PAs.



**Consistency and balanced implementation**

Facilitate synergies in the fulfillment of Mexico's international environmental obligations in the face of climate change, desertification, and sustainable development.

# Recommendations

In order to **strengthen the implementation of Target 3 in Mexico**, the following recommendations and observations are made:



## RENOM

will be the official Mexican platform for OECMs registration, monitoring and reporting.



The Roadmap should be included in key national and sectoral planning instruments.

- A.** It is proposed that this Roadmap be the basis for the development of a Secretarial Agreement to promote the process of recognition of the figure of OMEC in Mexico, which commits the authorities to detonate its recognition, reporting and verification, both in the current and future administrations.
- B.** The signing of the Ministerial Agreement and the creation of Mexico's National Registry of Other Effective Conservation Measures (RENOM) is crucial for the identification, recognition, registration, monitoring and evaluation of OECMs at the national level, as well as to integrate diverse sectoral stakeholders that have a direct impact and responsibility in the conservation of nature. Its creation should ensure intersectionality that promotes the engagement and leadership of all stakeholders, beyond the environmental sector.
- C.** Mexico's National Registry of Other Effective Conservation Measures (RENOM) will be the official means for the registration, monitoring and evaluation of the OECMs in Mexico, for which it will be necessary to define the institutions that will carry out their implementation.
- D.** It is recommended that an Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee be formed to discuss issues related to OECMs. This group should be composed of representatives from the environmental, agricultural, fisheries, social, indigenous peoples, private and financial, academic, and non-governmental sectors, which will ensure that the OECMs can be integrated into other strategic public and private programs and policies.
- E.** The Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee on OECMs should include among the topics to be discussed: 1) the development of effective and inclusive systems for following up and monitoring OECMs, according to the type of governance present in each one; 2) mechanisms for financing OECMs and developing incentives for their long-term maintenance; 3) specific criteria and the development of a field tool for identifying OECMs; 4) specific safeguards for the recognition of OECMs that allow for the recognition and respect of indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities, 6) identification of sustainable activities and best practices, especially those related to traditional knowledge, that have a positive long-term impact on biodiversity in OECMs, 7) promotion of the alignment of legal regulations and public environmental policies for the recognition of OECMs in Mexico.



The recognition of areas managed by indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities must have the free, prior and informed consent of their owners.

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To recognize an OECMs it is mandatory to have the written consent of the land owners.



Target 3 should be achieved through inter-sectoral efforts.

- F.** The OECM Technical Committee will be in charge of developing a definition of OECMs in Mexico to identify those federal area-based measures that can be recognized almost immediately as OECMs.
- G.** Criteria that promote the conservation of agrobiodiversity and its sustainable production systems must be integrated into future in situ conservation efforts in both PAs and OECM.
- H.** Due to its multi sectoral nature and ambitious scope, it is recommended that this Roadmap be integrated into the National Development Plan (PND) 2024-2030, as well as the National Program for Protected Areas (PRONANP) 2024-2030 and its national planning process, to develop a specific multisectoral government program to promote Target 3 in Mexico.
- I.** The actions in this Roadmap should be aligned with Mexico's National Biodiversity Strategy (ENBioMex) and the corresponding national targets.
- J.** Ensure that actions to achieve Target 3 are integrated with other sectors, especially with the productive sectors.
- K.** Identification and prioritization of Mexico's Federal Economic Package (PEF, by its acronym in Spanish) items whose budget allocation directly supports the implementation of this roadmap and Target 3.
- L.** It will be essential to ensure the allocation of public expenditure for the implementation of Target 3 through the PEF and to develop financial mechanisms, market instruments and incentives that allow for financial sustainability in the PAs and OECMs. The creation of financial mechanisms that allow for the alignment of public policies across different sectors is fundamental to the achievement of Target 3, which will strengthen public spending and encourage private investment, as well as support from international cooperation.
- M.** Create mechanisms to ensure the participation of women, youth, indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities in decision-making and governance processes related to the OECMs.



The OECMs Technical Committee must include representatives of indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities.



PAs and OECMs are mutually reinforcing, enhancing ecological connectivity and representativeness.

- N.** Identify areas requiring restoration within PAs and prioritize their attention, as well as prevent potential OECMs identified from being identified within priority areas for restoration.
- O.** Monitoring and evaluation of conservation efforts within PAs and OECMs is a fundamental issue for achieving or exceeding Target 3 in Mexico; therefore, it is necessary to ensure that the mechanisms are consistent with international standards and KMGBF indicators.
- P.** This Roadmap notes that OECMs complement protected areas by improving connectivity and sustainable management of natural areas. Each potential OECM should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, as the designation of OECMs should not adversely affect PAs or diminish efforts to report on progress toward Target 10<sup>19</sup> or other related targets.
- Q.** The establishment of new PAs and OECMs should focus on, but not be limited to, areas located in priority conservation zones that have underrepresented ecosystems, that protect key or endangered species (such as AICAS and marine mammal conservation zones), that promote connectivity between PAs, especially those located within a biocultural or biological corridor.
- R.** Prioritize updating Management Programs and creating those that are missing in existing PAs and those that are about to be created.
- S.** Likewise, priority should be given to the establishment of new OECMs in areas of biocultural value, so that the contributions of indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities can be recognized.
- T.** It is imperative to ensure that PAs and OECMs have inclusive participatory processes in decision-making, through transparent procedures and access to justice in conflict situations, especially those related to territoriality.
- U.** It is important to strengthen the designation of new PAs at the subnational level and to work on the development of tools to measure management effectiveness comparable to the national federal system, as well as to create mechanisms for integrating these areas into a single, frequently updated system.
- V.** Finally, criteria must be established to effectively recognize sustainable activities to ensure that these activities have a positive impact on biodiversity within the PAs and OECMs.

<sup>19</sup>Target 10 of the KMGBF requires countries: Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.



Sustainable biodiversity management, such as some traditional fishing techniques, within PAs is compatible with the objective of nature conservation.

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# Conclusions

1

**Target 3 represents a historic opportunity for Mexico. It calls for the conservation of 30% of the country's terrestrial, marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems,** with a landscape vision and emphasis on the maintenance of ecosystem functions and services, connectivity and ecological representativeness, and inclusive and equitable governance. Achieving it requires careful and integrated planning with the other KMGBF Targets, especially the first two, which also have area-based objectives. The first three targets must be understood under a common logic of planning and territorial use that favors conservation, where the restoration of degraded areas within PAs and OECMs of any kind is also prioritized.

2

**For the successful achievement of Target 3 in Mexico, it will be important that this roadmap be implemented urgently and as a priority.** It is also important that it maintains a broad consensus, that it constantly promotes active and plural social participation with a territorial approach, that it quickly implements and specifies achievable, effective, adaptive, inclusive and equitable goals, that it provides for the integral relationship with the other goals and objectives related to water and climate change, that its proposal provides for transparency and accountability as part of the process, and, above all, that each actor feels reflected and able to adopt them.

3

**An inclusive and equitable roadmap is essential to ensure that indigenous peoples, disadvantaged social groups and all stakeholders have a voice in decision-making and benefit from the resources generated by the use of biodiversity.**

This not only promotes social justice, but also ensures the long-term sustainability of conservation efforts through broad-based support. In addition, indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities, women and youth have a central role in the governance and management of PAs and OECMs, so their rights must be recognized and guaranteed. This will ensure the quality and effectiveness of the implementation of Target 3 and, therefore, the inclusive, equitable and effective conservation of the territory.

4

**This Roadmap in Mexico is proposed as the intersectoral strategy to develop the legal,**

regulatory and institutional framework required to implement the OECMs through a Ministerial Agreement.

5

**PAs and ADVCs are one of the most effective tools for conservation in Mexico; however, given current conditions and needs,**

participatory and inclusive management models must be demonstrated, strengthened and promoted, especially among women and youth, recognizing customs, cosmovision and spiritual values. It is essential to build local capacity and use traditional knowledge for PAs and OECMs management.

6

**Recognition of the OECMs will make it possible to document successful conservation experiences linked to sustainable production**

and use with positive results for biodiversity, especially those promoted by indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexican communities.

7

**Sites of biodiversity importance, identified as priority areas for conservation,**

offer great potential to foster new PAs as well as ADVCs and potential OECMs in a strategic, representative, complementary and effective manner.

8

**Ecological connectivity and representativeness are fundamental to ensure the conservation of biodiversity and the provision of environmental services in the long term,**

so biological corridors should be formed with mosaics of areas under integrated landscape management with one or another category and functionality to integrate such actions into public policies.



The ADVCs represent a successful Mexican initiative for voluntary conservation. The flora and fauna reconnaissance activities conducted in the Kolijke A.C. ADVC allow us to identify the species that benefit from the conservation of the site.

© Gaspar Luna

9

**Financial mechanisms to ensure effective and sustainable long-term management of PAs and OECMs urgently need to be developed and accelerated.** In addition, it is important to promote the expansion and replication of these instruments, ensuring that they are fully aligned with conservation objectives, evaluating and influencing perverse or antagonistic incentives that affect biodiversity, and integrating socio-environmental safeguards through harmonization of intersectoral public policies. Building multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral alliances to mobilize resources and knowledge is also key.

10

**Standardized, transparent and accessible systems are needed for monitoring,** information management and verification of management effectiveness in PAs and OECMs, incorporating key components of climate change adaptation and resilience and well-being.

11

**This Roadmap aims to ensure that Mexico meets and exceeds its binding commitments under the CBD;** however, if this cannot be done, alternative measures must be sought to promote biodiversity conservation in an effective and inclusive manner, to reverse the trends of degradation and loss of biodiversity, and to position the agenda in a cross-cutting manner and with co-responsibility among different sectors.



Low-impact traditional management techniques enable the livelihood and well-being of the communities, while contributing to the conservation of biodiversity at the site. An example of this is the *Sociedad Cooperativa de Producción Pesquera en General y Acuícola Ostricamichín* dedicated to oyster or “balsa” cultivation in Boca de Camichín, Nayarit, Mexico.



DOWNLOAD THE DOCUMENT HERE

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