



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Annex 4.3

Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework

For the GCF-FAO Project “GCF Results-Based Payments Mexico 2018-2019 aimed at Forest Conservation and Sustainable Livestock”

July, 2026

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List of Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
CDI	National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (now INPI)
CFGMP	Conflicts, Feedback and Grievance Management Plan
CICC	Interministerial Commission on Climate Change
CONAF	National Forestry Council
CONAFOR	National Forestry Commission
CONANP	National Commission of Natural Protected Areas
CONEVAL	National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy
CTC-REDD+	Technical Advisory Committee for REDD+
DOF	Official Gazette of the Federation
ECA/ECAs	Farmer Field School(s)
ENADIS	National Survey on Discrimination
ENAREDD+	National REDD+ Strategy
ENDUTIH	National Survey on Availability and Use of Information Technologies in Households
ESA	Environmental and Social Due Diligence Assessment for the Results Period
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESOP	Environmental and Social Operational Procedure
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FANAR	Fund for the Support of Agrarian Nuclei without Regularization
FESM	FAO Framework for Environmental and Social Management
FP	Funding Proposal
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GAAP	Gender Assessment and Action Plan
GBV	Gender-based violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GMPM	Guide for Best Management Practices
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GT-REDD+	REDD+ Working Group
ILO	International Labour Organization
INALI	National Institute of Indigenous Languages
INEGI	National Institute of Statistics and Geography
INPI	National Institute of Indigenous Peoples
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IPP	Indigenous Peoples Plan
IPPF	Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework
IRM	Independent Redress Mechanism

LGDFS	General Law on Sustainable Forest Development
MAC	Citizen Attention Mechanism
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MMP	Multidimensional Poverty Measurement
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NCB	Non-carbon benefit
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NTFP	Non-timber forest product
OIC	Internal Control Body
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
PLR	Policy, Legal and Regulatory framework
PMU	Project Management Unit
PND	National Development Plan
PNF/PRONAFOR	National Forestry Program
PROCEDE	Program for the Certification of Ejidal Rights and Titling of Urban Plots
PSA	Payment for Environmental Services
RAN	National Agrarian Registry
RBP	Results-Based Payments
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
SADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
SEA/SH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment
SEDATU	Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development
SEMARNAT	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SHCP	Ministry of Finance and Public Credit
SIAC	Citizen Information and Attention Service
SIDEC	Comprehensive Citizen Complaints System
SIS	Safeguards Information System
SSP	Silvopastoral system
UN	United Nations
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UT	Transparency Unit

1. Executive Summary

This annex constitutes the 'Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework' (IPPF, hereon), a dedicated annex to Mexico's RBP proposal and its dedicated Environmental and Social Management Framework, the ESMF. Under the umbrella of the project's ESMF, this IPPF elaborates further on issues regarding Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population as well as on participatory processes developed in the country during its REDD+ readiness process, and reflects on all issues relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities in the context of this RBP proposal, including to inform the design, implementation and monitoring of on-the-ground activities to be implemented with the use of proceeds.

This IPPF is consistent with FAO's overall approach to all due diligence assessments supporting the FP proposal, building a comprehensive and coherent environmental and management framework that is: 1) Aligned with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the FAO Policy on Indigenous Peoples and FAO related corporate narrative on Indigenous Peoples, 2) anchored in the Cancun Safeguards and consistent with Mexico's SIS, 3) allows for environmental and social management monitoring and reporting as per FAO's FESM consistent with its accreditation under the GCF, and 4) ensure compliance with the GCF's relevant safeguards and policies, and guides annual performance reporting throughout project implementation.

Accordingly, this IPPF is part of due diligence assessments conducted in preparation of this RBP proposal, and has informed Annex 4.1 to the RBP proposal on: i) the extent to which the activities undertaken in the past leading to the REDD+ results for which the result-based payments have been consistent with the GCF's IP Policy, and FAO's ESS 7, 8 and 9; the extent to which and how Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population had been identified, informed, and consulted, and how such engagement took place and how Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population participated in the activities, and; whether grievance redress mechanisms were available to them.

This IPPF is conceived under the RBP proposal's Environmental and Social Management Framework for use of the proceeds (Annex 4.2 to the RBP Proposal) and describes: i) potential risks and impacts relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population in the context of activities to be supported by the RBP and describe how they will continue to be identified, assessed and managed in an on-going basis throughout project implementation; outstanding considerations and proposed measures to ensure stakeholder consultations undertaken during the design of, and due diligence on, the activities to be supported by the RBP proceeds include Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population and ensure the respect of the right to Free, Prior Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population, as appropriate.

Following the application of FAO's risks assessment and screening checklist, and consistent with the RBP's ESMF and its risks management matrix, this draft IPPF elaborates on potential risks relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population and associated commensurate management measures.

As underscored throughout Mexico's RBP proposal and its ESMF, given the high-level and strategic nature of the REDD+ Strategy, potential environmental, social and governance issues associated to on-the-ground interventions, particularly those relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population, will ultimately depend on how REDD+ programs are designed and implemented. Accordingly, a one-year inception phase is envisioned to further refine technical details prior to starting on-the-ground

implementation, including through analytical, participatory and consultative efforts, as detailed in the Annex 4.2 to the RBP. Said inclusive and participatory process will also inform the refinement of environmental, social and governance potential risks identified in the ESMF into a comprehensive and actionable Environmental and Social Management Plan, the ESMP, and an Indigenous Peoples Plan will be developed. Ultimately, this will allow to inform the terms, conditions and standardized operational procedures that guide the design, implementation and monitoring of culturally appropriate on-the-ground activities to be implemented with the use of proceeds. The right of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population to Free, Prior and Informed Consent, FPIC, will be respected throughout the lifecycle of on-the-ground implementation in *all* cases where a project beneficiary self-identifies as Indigenous and Afro-Mexican, as established in this IPPF and compliant with the GCF's IP Policy and relevant international instruments such as UNDRIP and ILO169.

Implementation of the ESMF (and upon project inception, the ESMP), this planning framework, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Gender Assessment and Action Plan (Annexes 5 and 6 to the RBP, respectively), will be responsibility of the full-time safeguards specialist, in coordination with the gender specialist, to be hired as part of the Project Management Unit (see section 9 in the ESMF). The IPPF will be transformed into a Project-level IPP, over the project inception phase, which will constitute the basis for addressing IPs issues throughout project implementation. Should additional potential risks relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population are identified at any time through project implementation, the safeguards specialist will be responsible to keep both the Project IPP and the ESMP's risks and management measures matrix and the Exclusion List up to date, ensuring regular feedback loops in an adaptive management approach.

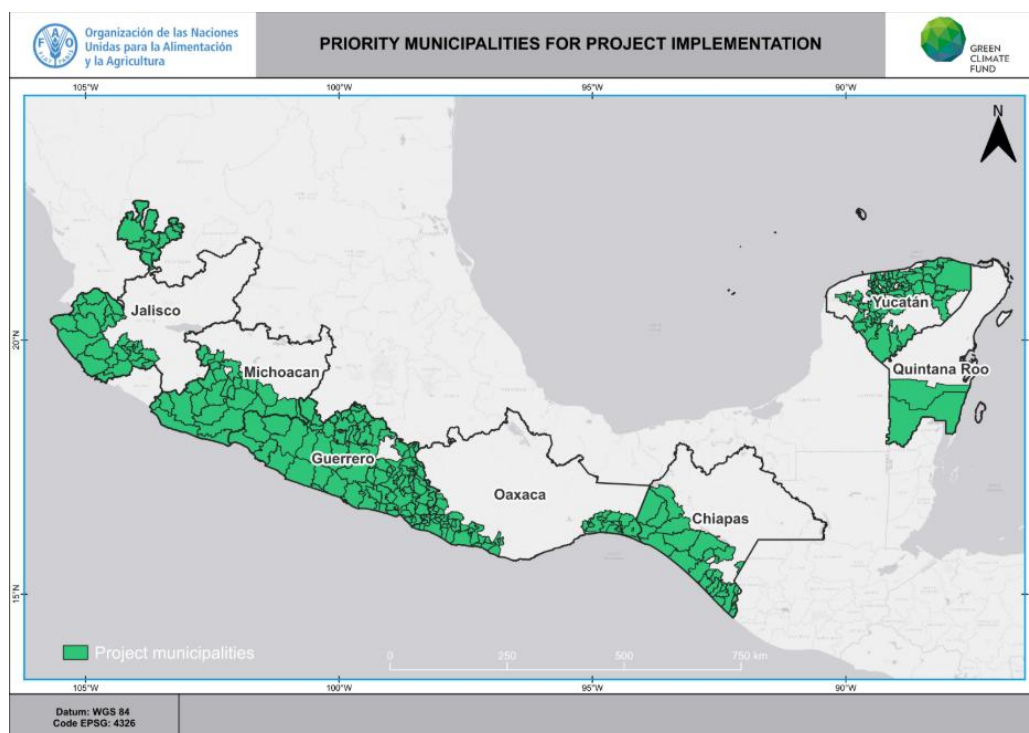
2. Project Description

2.1. RBP Proposal Overview

Mexico will reinvest the results-based payments (RBP) into a transformative program that seeks to address one of the key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation: the expansion and persistence of extensive livestock systems in forest–grassland transition zones. The reinvestment will promote productive restoration in transition zones, forest conservation and sustainable livestock production through silvopastoral and agrosilvopastoral systems, strengthened territorial management, sustainable finance, and improved monitoring and traceability systems. This approach to reduce deforestation from cattle production and scale sustainable livestock solutions across forest–grassland frontiers.

The RBP Proposal will focus on priority landscapes in forest–livestock transition zones in dry and sub-humid forests in the states of Chiapas, Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacán, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán. These states and priority municipalities have been identified considering ecosystem vulnerability and livestock pressure, and existing enabling conditions including implementation capacity of state governments and territorial governance. Also, the seven states and municipalities have significant cultural diversity and presence of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican populations.

Figure 1. Map of priority municipalities for project implementation



The proposal seeks to address the expansion of the productive frontier, and conversion of forests or tropical forests through a combination of collective and individual incentives. On the one hand, Payments for Environmental Services (PES) will be directed towards tropical forest areas mainly under social property regime (ejidos and communities) to support the conservation and adequate management of common-use areas. This seeks to reinforce collective decision-making for the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of these areas. See section 3.2 for more information on Mexico's land tenure regime.

On the other hand, support will be provided for the transition from extensive cattle ranching to silvopastoral systems will focus on plots assigned to small landowners (ejidatarios, *comuneros* or other local producers) currently engaged in livestock activities within the community. This combination of incentives seeks to align the collective decision to conserve common-use areas with the individual decision to transform existing livestock production systems, thereby reducing pressure on tropical forests and avoiding productivity gains leading to expansion into new areas.

The successful adoption and long-term sustainability of sustainable production practices requires more than the implementation of technical measures. Producers need access to knowledge and technical support to implement and maintain these practices, institutional mechanisms that facilitate coordination and collective action across the landscape, and financial and market opportunities that make sustainable production economically viable. For this reason, additionally the project will strengthen capacities through Farmer Field Schools, reinforce territorial governance mechanisms through territorial agents, and improve access to finance and markets, creating the conditions necessary for sustainable land-use transitions to be sustained over time.

The reinvestment of proceeds from GCF results-based payments is designed not as a standalone intervention, but as a catalytic mechanism to transform rural production systems, remove structural

barriers, and institutionalize the enabling conditions required for long-term climate and development impacts beyond the project implementation. In this context, Mexico's RBP proposal integrates four mutually reinforcing outcomes described as follows:

Outcome 1. Increased adoption of climate-resilient silvopastoral systems and diversified sustainable livelihoods in forest–livestock transition zones. The project will support demonstrative productive reconversion models, including silvopastoral and agrosilvopastoral systems, regenerative grazing, improved fodder production, field schools and productive restoration in priority transition zones. These actions will strengthen producer capacities, improve productivity and resilience, and reduce pressure to clear forests.

Outcome 2. Increased economic incentives and access to finance for forest sustainable management, conservation, and forest-compatible production systems. The project will strengthen deforestation-free value chains and market-access mechanisms, including producer organization, demand-side engagement and traceability. It will also support PES mechanisms with ejidos and communities and harmonize financial products that enable investment in sustainable practices, productive restoration and deforestation-free livestock systems.

Outcome 3. Improved inclusive territorial governance and coordinated landscape management for forest conservation, productive restoration and women's leadership. The project will strengthen territorial agents, support territorial planning and coordination among ejidos, communities, producer organizations and local actors, and promote women-led productive and income-generating initiatives. This will help align individual production decisions with collective forest conservation and restoration objectives.

Outcome 4. Enhanced institutional capacities, coordination and monitoring systems to sustain REDD+ implementation and climate-resilient landscape management. The project will strengthen the capacities of institutions, territorial actors and technical staff to support silvopastoral systems, productive restoration and project formulation. It will also strengthen monitoring systems to track land-cover change, restoration, grazing plans, forage production, livestock carrying capacity, land clearing, agricultural fires, traceability of deforestation-free production and greenhouse-gas emissions linked to project-supported practices.

At its core, the reinvestment strategy seeks to catalyze a transition from extensive, deforestation-linked livestock systems toward integrated, higher-productivity, climate-resilient and economically viable models. These models are grounded in silvopastoral practices, territorial restoration, and forest-compatible grazing, and are designed to be adopted and scaled by livestock producers to ensure long-term sustainability and replicability. As key feature, the proposal emphasizes strengthening permanent capacities and institutional instruments within existing frameworks, including monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems, Farmer Field Schools, Territorial Development Agencies, and intersectoral coordination mechanisms.

2.2. Arrangements for benefit distribution and target beneficiary population

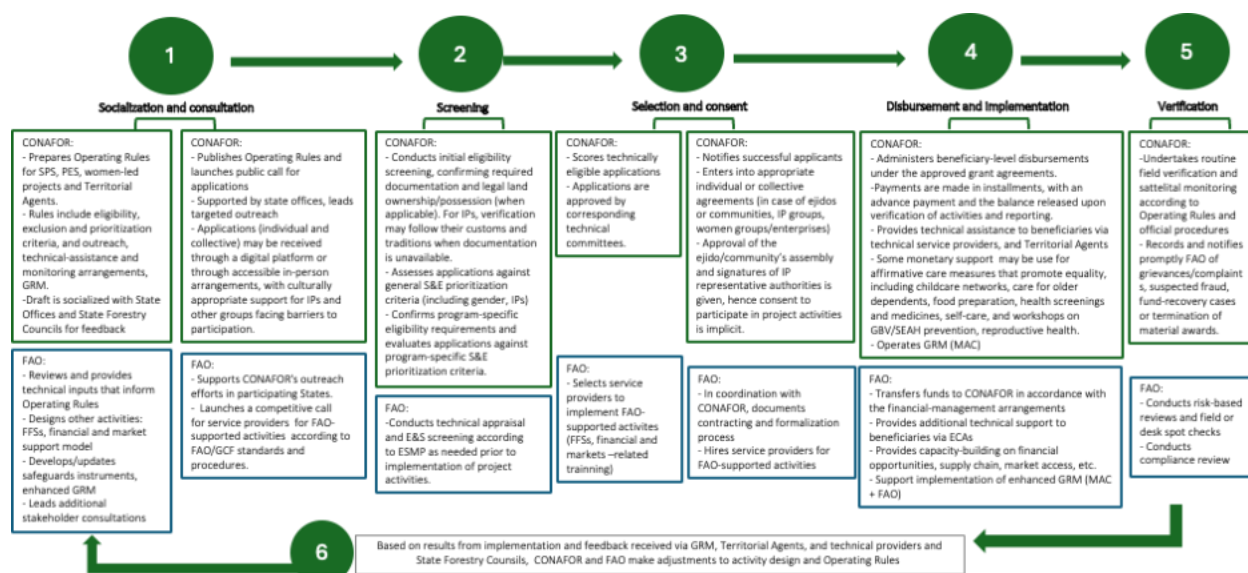
The proposal will be implemented in territories characterized by a significant presence of social land ownership, sociocultural diversity and community-based governance. In this context, ejidos and agrarian communities, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican population, women producers and livestock producers are identified as priority and direct beneficiaries, given their central role in land-use decisions, forest conservation, livestock production, productive restoration and the adoption of sustainable practices. The proposed model combines forest conservation, through PES, with a productive restoration mechanism

(silvopastoral systems - SSP) and productive activities led by women in forest frontier areas, implemented with technical support from territorial agents (local public institutions or civil society organizations) and service providers, with the aim of strengthening sustainable livelihoods of forest-dependent peoples and communities.

To this end, 58 percent of RBP resources will be channeled through CONAFOR to finance the implementation of SSP, PES and women-led productive activities on the ground, through public subsidy programs implemented under Operating Rules. Financial resources (monetary benefits) will be transferred from CONAFOR directly to beneficiaries participating individually or collectively (e.g., ejidos and communities) in these programs on a voluntary basis, thereby promoting fair, equitable, and effective access to benefits derived from RBP.

RBP resources (18 percent) operated by FAO, will support the delivery of technical support and capacity-building (non-monetary benefits) to ensure the effective adoption of silvopastoral systems through Farmer Field Schools (ECA). A competitive process will be conducted to select and contract qualified service providers responsible for facilitating these field schools and delivering technical assistance. Also, at the territorial level, a key coordination mechanism of the proposal is the engagement of territorial agents (local public institutions or civil society organizations) that directly support ejidos, communities, and small landowners in implementing activities on the ground. 5 percent of the resources will be allocated to supporting the operation of Territorial Agents with a presence in intervention areas through competitive calls under CONAFOR's Operating Rules. The remaining funds will be allocated to institutional strengthening activities.

The overall project's implementation and benefit distribution model is presented in the figure below, which illustrates the full decision-making pathway highlighting the complementary roles of CONAFOR and FAO throughout the project cycle. The process begins with (1) Socialization and Consultation, during which the Operating Rules are prepared, outreach and consultations are conducted, and project activities are designed. This is followed by (2) Screening, where applications are assessed against eligibility and prioritization criteria. Eligible applications then proceed to (3) Selection and consent, including technical evaluation, consent by beneficiaries, contracting, and formalization of participation. During (4) Disbursement and Implementation, beneficiaries receive financial support, technical assistance, capacity building, and may use grievance mechanisms. (5) Verification includes routine monitoring, compliance reviews, grievance management, and verification of project implementation. Finally, (6) Adaptive Management is applied throughout implementation, using monitoring results, stakeholder feedback, and lessons learned to continuously improve project activities, safeguards implementation, and, where appropriate, CONAFOR's Operating Rules.



For project interventions implemented through CONAFOR's Operating Rules, those will be subject to established eligibility, exclusion, and environmental and social assessment (prioritization criteria) as defined and clearly and transparently set out in the Operating Rules.

Additionally, this mechanism operated by CONAFOR recognizes the contributions of local and community stakeholders to the integrated management, restoration, and conservation of Mexico's forest landscapes. It has progressively evolved to be inclusive of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican communities, and other vulnerable groups that actively contribute to sustainable forest development within their territories. In recognition of their significant presence in several of the project states and their central role in forest conservation, sustainable forest management, and REDD+ implementation in Mexico, the project will seek to ensure that at least 25% of the funding allocated to on-the-ground grant activities is directed to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population. Beneficiaries may also include forest dwellers regardless of their land tenure status. The Box below includes detailed information on the selection process and criteria considered to access CONAFOR's forest support programs.

Box. CONAFOR's Operating Rules and Eligibility and Prioritization Criteria for Participation in forest Support programs

CONAFOR publishes its Operating Rules on an annual basis, as well as national and, where applicable, project-specific calls for proposals. These instruments will apply to all activities under CONAFOR's responsibility, including Payments for Environmental Services, productive restoration through silvopastoral systems, and productive projects for women's groups which will be supported by the project.

The Operating Rules and calls for proposals identify the eligible areas for accessing resources, as well as the eligibility requirements, prioritization criteria, technical requirements, implementation obligations, monitoring arrangements and excluded activities. CONAFOR's support programs are available to owners, legitimate possessors and inhabitants of forest and preferably forest lands, including women, participating individually or collectively (ejidos, communities, groups and/or women's enterprises). Payments are made in installments, with an advance payment and the balance released upon verification of activities and reporting. Additional to CONAFOR's field verification and satellite monitoring, beneficiaries are responsible for tracking the implementation of activities and submitting implementation reports to CONAFOR.

The Operating Rules are published annually by CONAFOR and provide guidance on how the programs operate and the requirements for participation. Applications may be submitted online (through the website) or in person

at CONAFOR State Representation Offices. The process is free of charge, and the offices are safe spaces free from violence. The following section describes the eligibility criteria used to determine the viability of applications, as well as the social and environmental prioritization criteria used to rank and prioritize eligible proposals.

Minimum eligibility criteria for participation in the programmes:

- Submit an application indicating the support categories (programs) of interest.
- Demonstrate the legal status of the applicant, whether an individual or a collective entity such as a company, ejido or community. For Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican populations, where documentation is unavailable, verification may be carried out in accordance with their customs and traditions, through an identity certificate issued by INPI, or through legally recognized documentation, including for group applications.
- Demonstrate legal ownership or possession of the land where physical activities or equipment installation will take place. For ejidos and communities, a certificate issued by the National Agrarian Registry is required.
- Additional requirements may apply depending on the support category or modality requested, as specified in the annexes to the Operating Rules.

Some support categories provide additional monetary support for affirmative care measures aimed at promoting equality. These resources may be used to establish community childcare networks, provide care for older persons dependent on women engaged in productive activities, cover food preparation costs, purchase household consumables, finance health screenings and medicines, promote self-care, and support workshops on violence prevention and sexual and reproductive health.

Applications deemed technically viable are subsequently assessed using the following general prioritization criteria:
Social criteria:

- Ejidos and communities that have not received CONAFOR support during the previous five years
- Individuals who have not received CONAFOR support during the previous five years.
- The support application is implemented in Indigenous or Afro-Mexican Peoples and Communities that either: (i) are located in municipalities covered by a Justice and Regional Development Plan coordinated by INPI, or (ii) are included in the National Catalogue of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples and Communities (CNPCIA) maintained by INPI.
- The support application is located in a municipality classified as having very high, high or medium social lag according to CONEVAL municipal-level classifications.
- The support application is submitted by an ejido or community.
- The individual applicant is a woman, or the applicant group includes at least one woman among its owners or representatives.
- The individual applicant is a young person (18–29 years old), or the legal entity includes at least one young person among its owners or representatives.

Climate change criterion:

- The support application is implemented in a municipality with high or very high climate change vulnerability according to the National Climate Change Vulnerability Atlas (ANVCC).

Beneficiaries acquire the following rights through participation:

- I. Receive support payments in a timely manner through electronic bank transfer.
- II. Receive guidance and information regarding the application of the Operating Rules in citizen-friendly, inclusive and non-sexist language, and in their own language in the case of Indigenous Peoples.
- III. Receive free information regarding their rights and obligations.
- IV. Terminate contracts with technical service providers or extension institutions when such providers fail to fulfill their obligations.
- V. Receive timely attention from CONAFOR through the Citizens' Attention Mechanism.
- VI. Receive respectful and non-discriminatory treatment regardless of ethnic origin, skin color, culture, sex, gender, age, disability, social, economic, physical or mental health status, legal status, religion, physical

appearance, genetic characteristics, pregnancy, opinions, sexual orientation, political identity or affiliation, marital status, family situation, caregiving responsibilities, language, criminal record or any other condition.

The RBP project will support the implementation of the following programs, which include the following eligibility and prioritization criteria:

1. Productive Reconversion

Objective:

Financial support for eligible beneficiaries to implement forest restoration projects that include productive activities (such as silvopastoral systems) aimed at restoring degraded ecosystems, promoting productive reconversion, and recovering forest cover.

Additional eligibility criteria:

- Shapefile showing the project area.
- Productive reconversion project proposal.
- Budget.

Prioritization criteria:

- Projects led by women, such as nurseries, production of plants linked to productive activities, and rainwater harvesting systems.
- Groups of at least seven people; legal incorporation is not required.
- The project is located in a micro-watershed with an active PES agreement.
- The project is located within a water reserve area or overexploited aquifer.
- Activities contribute to improving production and productivity.
- The area is degraded.
- The project is located in tropical dry forest ecosystems.
- The area has been affected by forest fires, pests, or is located in a micro-watershed supplying water bodies.

2. Productive Projects for Women

Objective:

Financial support to promote entrepreneurship and strengthen project ideas led by women and young people, adding value to forest raw materials (e.g. carpentry, charcoal production, cosmetics, medicinal plants, handicrafts using fibres and palm, nurseries, ornamental plants and resin).

Modalities:

1. Productive projects for women: aimed at women's forest enterprises with at least five members.
2. Productive projects for young people belonging to an agrarian nucleus or social forestry enterprise, with at least five young participants including women.
3. Forest project incubator for women: aimed at agrarian nuclei (ejidos and communities) and organized women's groups. Includes technical support from CONAFOR and a participatory process to develop the project idea.

Additional eligibility criteria:

- Shapefile showing the project area.
- Documentation demonstrating the legal origin of raw materials issued by the competent authority.
- Two quotations when machinery or equipment is required.
- Commitment letter from the selected supplier confirming that training on equipment use will be provided.
- For Modality 3, identification code for participating persons.
- Legal ownership or possession of the area where machinery will be installed or civil works undertaken, where applicable.

Prioritization criteria:

- Inclusion of young women (18–29 years old).
- Projects in which women have previously worked in an organized manner.
- Activities located within productive areas established under forest zoning.
- Ecosystem type where the project is located (higher scores for arid zones and tropical dry forests).
- Number of participants (higher scores awarded to projects involving larger numbers of participants).

Affirmative care measures:

- Up to USD 4 500 under Modality 1.
- Up to USD 1 700 under Modality 3.

3. Payment for Environmental Services (PES)

Objective: Financial support provided to owners or possessors of forest lands to conserve and protect their forests.

Additional eligibility criteria:

- Shapefile showing the project area.
- The area must consist of a maximum of four polygons.
- For ejidos and communities, only common-use lands are eligible.

Prioritization criteria:

- The ejido or community commits through its Assembly to implement a sustainable productive project (e.g. nurseries, ecotourism, beekeeping).
- The productive project will be implemented with 80 percent participation by women.
- The project includes a list of women participating in conservation activities.
- The proposed area is located within a protected area.
- The proposed area is located in a deforestation-risk zone.
- The proposed area is located in a natural-disaster-risk zone.
- The proposed area overlies an overexploited aquifer.
- The proposed area is located in a zone projected to experience climate-related changes that could negatively affect environmental service provision.
- The proposed area is located within an Important Bird Area or Ramsar site.
- The proposed area is located in tropical dry forest or mangrove ecosystems.
- The applicant commits to conducting community biodiversity monitoring.

Affirmative care measures:

- Up to 20 percent of the total productive project budget may be allocated to affirmative care measures.

Additional considerations for PES program:

- Preparation of a Guide for Best Management Practices (GMPM) is mandatory within 45 days, using a participatory process; CONAFOR provides technical assistance throughout design, implementation, and monitoring.
- GMPM focuses on active conservation, sustainable forest management, biodiversity protection, and inclusion of vulnerable groups (Indigenous Peoples, youth, women).
- Activities must be participatory, locally relevant, technically feasible, and contribute to maintaining or improving ecosystem services, while complying with environmental regulations.
- Mandatory actions include preventing land-use change, conserving forest cover, establishing community brigades (e.g., fire prevention), annual capacity-building, and submitting community-approved plans and reports.
- The framework prohibits harmful practices (e.g., unauthorized infrastructure, mining, waste disposal, non-native species).

The RBP proposal will generate significant non-carbon benefits (NCBs) across social, environmental, and governance dimensions. Social benefits include enhanced income-generation opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the promotion of women-led productive activities, and gender-responsive technical assistance and capacity development. Governance benefits include strengthened territorial and landscape-level governance. Environmental benefits include expanding the area under Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes to enhance ecosystem service provision, including biodiversity conservation.

The proposed NCBs are embedded within the long-term implementation framework of CONAFOR, ensuring that benefits generated through RBP reinvestment can be sustained after project completion. Beyond meeting Cancun Safeguards requirements, the proposal seeks to generate durable environmental, social, and governance benefits through strengthened territorial governance, expanded PES schemes, livelihood diversification, and gender-responsive approaches that reinforce the permanence of emission reductions while improving resilience and well-being among forest-dependent communities. Monitoring of these benefits will be integrated into the Project's results framework and annual reporting processes.

Specific potential environmental and social benefits associated to the proposed benefit distribution will be identified in more detail during the project inception phase, and this will inform the eligibility and prioritization criteria for the on-the-ground implementation in a way that the use of proceeds supports not only low-risk activities in nature but actively foster a diversity of co-benefits for all project beneficiaries, particularly for those Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population.

3. Description of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population

3.1. Context of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population in Mexico

Mexico is a multicultural, multiethnic, and multilingual nation whose identity and diversity are deeply rooted in the presence and contributions of Indigenous Peoples, the original inhabitants of the national territory. Indigenous Peoples continue to play a vital role in preserving the country's cultural heritage, traditional knowledge systems, languages, and natural resource management practices, which are fundamental to Mexico's historical and cultural richness.

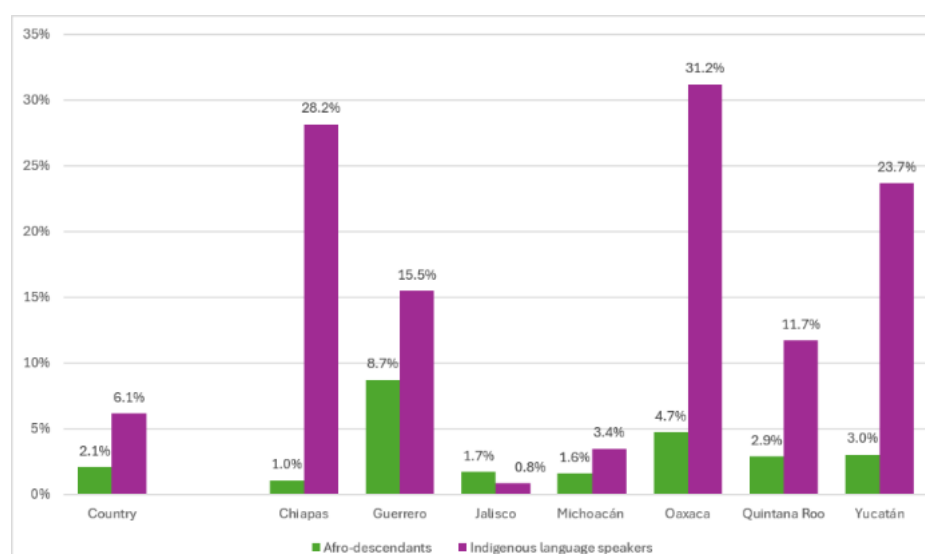
Afro-Mexican peoples have also been an integral part of Mexico's history since the colonial period, when people of African origin arrived in the territory during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, as part of the Spanish colonial presence. Over time, Afro-Mexican communities have made significant contributions to the country's social, cultural, and economic development, enriching Mexico's cultural heritage through their traditions, knowledge, and historical legacy.

As of February 2025, 70 Indigenous Peoples and the Afro-Mexican People had been officially identified in Mexico. These populations are distributed across 16,114 communities—including 15,600 Indigenous communities, 444 Afro-Mexican communities, and 70 pluricultural communities—located in 1,393 municipalities across 28 states. These communities have been formally recognized and granted legal personality, strengthening the institutional recognition of their collective rights and governance structures.

A significant improvement introduced to the Population and Housing Census has been the incorporation of self-identification questions for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population, complementing traditional indicators such as Indigenous language use. This approach provides a more comprehensive recognition of the country's ethnic and cultural diversity by allowing individuals to identify themselves according to their own sense of belonging and identity. As a result, census data now capture different, yet complementary, dimensions of identity that should not be considered interchangeable. A person may self-identify as Indigenous without speaking an Indigenous language, while a person may speak an Indigenous language but reside outside an Indigenous community. Similarly, Afro-Mexican identity is based on self-identification and cannot be defined solely by language or place of residence.

In this context, according to the 2020 Population and Housing Census, 23.2 million people (51.4 percent women and 48.6 percent men) self-identify as Indigenous, this represents 19.4 percent of the population aged three years and older. Of these, 7.3 million are speakers of one of the 68 Indigenous languages and 364 linguistic variants belonging to the 11 language families recognized by the National Institute of Indigenous Languages (INALI). As of 2025, the National Register of Indigenous Language Interpreters and Translators (PANITLI) included 2,188 certified interpreters and translators covering 153 linguistic variants. This represents coverage of 42.03 percent of the country's Indigenous language variants across 28 states. In addition, 2.58 million people identify as Afro-Mexican or Afro-descendant, representing approximately 2 percent of the national population, of whom 50.4 percent are women.

Figure 2. Percentage of the population aged 3 and over by ethnicity status in the RBP project states



Source: Own elaboration based on INEGI, Population and Housing Census 2020. Basic Questionnaire.

The territories historically inhabited by Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population contain an extraordinary wealth of ecosystems, characterized by high levels of biodiversity, endemic species, and abundant natural resources. This biocultural heritage is reflected in a rich body of traditional knowledge, practices, and ancestral wisdom related to the stewardship, sustainable use, protection, and conservation of biodiversity, grounded in their own worldviews and perspectives on development.

Mexico is home to approximately 3,352 plant species used for medicinal purposes, and this number may reach 5,000 when considering the diversity of plant families, genera, and species found across the country. This rich biocultural heritage has been preserved to a large extent through the collective knowledge of

Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities, particularly among traditional knowledge holders and practitioners such as healers, midwives, herbalists, traditional bone-setters, and other community specialists. Their knowledge continues to play an important role in the therapeutic, ritual, and ceremonial use of medicinal plants and contributes to the conservation and transmission of traditional health practices across generations.

Also, there is a strong overlap between Indigenous territories, collectively owned forest lands, and areas of high biodiversity and ecosystem service value. Approximately 3.6 million people living in Indigenous households reside in forest localities, representing 30.3 percent of the national Indigenous household population. The largest Indigenous populations living in forest areas are concentrated in Chiapas, Oaxaca, and Guerrero, while the RBP target states—Chiapas, Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacán, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán—host substantial Indigenous populations with diverse governance systems, traditional ecological knowledge, and livelihoods closely linked to forests and agricultural landscapes. Afro-Mexican population is concentrated primarily in Guerrero and Oaxaca, with important populations also present in Yucatán, Quintana Roo, Chiapas, Jalisco, and Michoacán. Many Afro-Mexican communities depend on agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and other natural resource-based livelihoods.

Protecting Indigenous and Afro-Mexican territories, the ecosystems they sustain, and the traditional knowledge associated with the sustainable use of natural resources—while ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from these resources—can contribute to strengthening community livelihoods, local economies, governance systems, and self-government structures. These efforts support the well-being and sustainable development of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population in ways that are consistent with their cultural values, priorities, and worldviews.

Challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population

Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population continue to experience disproportionate levels of social exclusion and discrimination, as well as barriers to accessing public services and participating in decision-making processes. Many of these communities are located in territories facing higher levels of poverty, and social marginalization.

Official poverty assessments consistently show that Indigenous populations face greater structural disadvantages than the non-Indigenous population. Persistent disparities affect income, access to social security, housing services, education, healthcare and food security, with more pronounced impacts among rural Indigenous women and populations living in highly marginalized municipalities.

According to the 2024 Multidimensional Poverty Measurement (MMP), Indigenous Peoples continue to experience disproportionately high levels of poverty. 60.8 percent of Indigenous people in Mexico—equivalent to approximately 7.8 million individuals—were living in poverty, of whom 22.9 percent (approximately 2.9 million people) were living in extreme poverty.

Similarly, findings from the 2022 National Survey on Discrimination (ENADIS) indicate that, on average, four out of every ten Indigenous or Afro-Mexican persons considered that their rights were respected little or not at all. In addition, 35.4 percent identified lack of employment opportunities and economic resources as the main challenges they face, while 28 percent reported having experienced discrimination. These findings highlight the persistent social and economic barriers affecting Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities and underscore the importance of strengthening their participation in the design and

implementation of public policies that respond to their specific needs, local contexts, and cultural, social, political, and economic diversity.

Employment and income generation remain significant challenges for many Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities. While many Indigenous communities maintain strong livelihoods linked to the primary sector, limited economic opportunities and insufficient support often lead Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population to engage in temporary migration to urban centers and labor markets in other states or abroad. In these contexts, workers frequently face challenging labor conditions, including long working hours, limited access to social protection, and discriminatory practices.

Evidence from the 2019 National Time Use Survey (ENATU) indicates that Indigenous language speakers work, on average, 3.1 hours more per week than non-Indigenous language speakers; however, this additional labor effort is not reflected in higher income levels. According to INEGI data, 60.5 percent of Indigenous language speakers aged 12 years and older were economically active in 2020, with men accounting for 79.2 percent of this economically active population. Despite their participation in the labor force, the 2024 Multidimensional Poverty Measurement found that 62.9 percent of the Indigenous population had incomes below the poverty line, which includes both food and non-food basic needs.

Income gaps also persist. The 2024 National Household Income and Expenditure Survey reported that the average quarterly income of individuals who self-identify as Indigenous or speak an Indigenous language was approximately USD 1,100 (equivalent to MXN 22,318). Although this represented an increase of 29.74 percent compared with 2016, substantial disparities remain: for every USD 100 earned by an Indigenous person, a non-Indigenous person earned approximately USD 146 on average.

Gender disparities are also significant, with Indigenous women earning slightly more than half of the income received by Indigenous men and remaining concentrated in the lowest income deciles. Specific barriers faced by Indigenous and Afro-Mexican women, are often linked to the traditional distribution of unpaid care and household responsibilities. Such responsibilities can limit their educational and economic opportunities and contribute to the persistence of gender inequalities from an early age.

Access to public health services remains a significant challenge for many Indigenous Peoples in Mexico. In 2024, 48.5 percent of the Indigenous population lacked access to health services, while more than three-quarters (75.98 percent) did not have access to social security. In addition, only 73.07 percent of the Indigenous population had access to nutritious and quality food, understood as food that is sufficiently available, diverse, and adequate to meet essential caloric and nutritional requirements.

Adequate housing remains another important challenge for Indigenous populations. According to the 2024 MMP, 24.3 percent of Indigenous people (approximately 3.1 million individuals) experience housing deprivation related to the quality of housing materials and overcrowding, while 53 percent (approximately 6.8 million people) lack access to basic services in their homes. In addition, legal uncertainty regarding land tenure can limit communities' ability to secure and exercise their right to adequate housing. Indigenous territories may also be exposed to land-use changes, encroachment, and environmental degradation driven by external actors, creating additional challenges for housing access and territorial security compared with other population groups.

Educational attainment also remains an important challenge. According to the 2024 Multidimensional Poverty Measurement, 36.34 percent of the Indigenous population—equivalent to approximately 4.6 million people—experienced some degree of educational lag. This situation is associated with several structural factors, including limited household economic resources, which often require Indigenous

children and youth to enter the labor market at an early age; geographic barriers that constrain access to educational services in many rural areas; and the insufficient availability of bilingual and culturally appropriate educational materials and curricula.

At the national level, data from the Ministry of Education indicate that during the 2023–2024 school year there were 51,117 Indigenous education schools at the early childhood, preschool, and primary levels (including community-based schools), representing only 27 percent of the 189,288 educational establishments registered at these levels. In addition, many schools located in Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities continue to face structural deficiencies, including inadequate or deteriorated infrastructure and limited access to basic services such as potable water, electricity, sanitation, and transportation infrastructure. These constraints can affect the provision of inclusive, equitable, and culturally relevant education and limit the full realization of the right to quality education.

Bridging the digital and technological divide affecting Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities remains a key development challenge in Mexico. According to the 2024 National Survey on Availability and Use of Information Technologies in Households (ENDUTIH), while internet penetration reaches 86.9 percent in urban areas, it is only 68.5 percent in rural areas, where a large share of the Indigenous and Afro-Mexican population resides. This gap can limit access to information, education, public services, economic opportunities, and participation in increasingly digitalized social and institutional processes. Addressing these disparities will be important for promoting more inclusive and equitable development outcomes in Indigenous and Afro-Mexican territories.

Afro-Mexican population particularly have historically faced institutional invisibility and limited recognition in ethnic statistics, public policies, and collective-rights frameworks. Important progress has been made through the constitutional reform of Article 2 in 2024, which strengthened the recognition of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples and communities as subjects of public law with legal personality and their own assets, while reinforcing their rights to self-determination, autonomy, development, cultural identity, and participation. Despite these advances, Afro-Mexican communities continue to experience discrimination and barriers to the full exercise of their rights, including limited participation in decision-making processes and unequal access to public services and opportunities. These challenges, which are often associated with racial discrimination and socioeconomic disadvantages, affect their quality of life and development outcomes.

These demographic, cultural, and territorial characteristics underscore the importance of implementing the RBP through culturally appropriate, participatory, and rights-based approaches that recognize Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities as key partners in sustainable forest and landscape management, while respecting their governance systems, traditional knowledge, and collective rights.

Justice and Regional Development Plans

As previously described, in Mexico there is a historical debt with Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican peoples, rooted in longstanding processes of marginalization, territorial dispossession, structural exclusion, and the limited realization of their collective rights. While their cultures, languages, knowledge systems, and heritage are widely recognized as an essential part of the nation's identity and diversity, continued efforts are needed to strengthen public policies that support the effective exercise of their rights, particularly those related to self-determination, autonomy, territorial management, and development pathways aligned with their own priorities and worldviews.

Historically, development approaches have not always adequately reflected the governance systems, productive practices, territorial relationships, and normative frameworks of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities. As a result, many regions in Mexico with significant Indigenous and Afro-Mexican populations continue to face social, economic and political challenges despite their rich cultural heritage and the environmental and strategic importance of their territories, as described in the previous section.

In response to these challenges, the Government of Mexico has launched an unprecedented effort to address historical grievances through the implementation of the Justice and Regional Development Plans. These plans serve as a public policy instrument designed to restore rights, address historical grievances, and support the full exercise of the autonomy and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities. These plans are developed through sustained dialogue and collaboration between government institutions and Indigenous and Afro-Mexican authorities, seeking to ensure their full and effective participation in defining priorities, investments, and actions that contribute to their well-being and to inclusive, intercultural, and sustainable development.

In 2025, the Presidential Commission for the Justice and Regional Development Plans of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican Peoples was established to coordinate and oversee the participatory development and implementation of these plans, while promoting inter-institutional coordination and resource allocation. As of December 2024, 17 Justice and Regional Development Plans were under development or implementation across 12 federal entities, covering 26 Indigenous Peoples.

In the context of the RBP project, these plans provide an important framework for aligning the project activities with Indigenous priorities, governance systems, and territorial planning processes. Within the states covered by the RBP proposal, the following Indigenous Justice and Regional Development Plans are relevant:

- Jalisco: Justice Plan for the Wixárika, O'dam (Au'dam), Náayeri and Mexikan Peoples
- Guerrero and Oaxaca: Comprehensive Development Plan for the Amuzgo People
- Oaxaca: Comprehensive Development Plans for the Xhidza and Xhon Peoples, the Zapotec and Chinantec Peoples of the District of Ixtlán, and the Chocholtec People
- Chiapas: Justice Plan for the Communities of the Lacandon Forest.
- Michoacán: Justice Plan for the Nahua People of the Coast of Michoacán is under development
- Quintana Roo and Yucatan: planning processes for the Maya People of the Yucatán Peninsula are being advanced through the national Indigenous planning framework led by INPI, building on the Indigenous Justice and Comprehensive Development Plans.

3.2. Land tenure, land and carbon rights

Mexico's land tenure system is governed by Article 27 of the Constitution, which establishes three legally recognized property regimes:

1. Public property,
2. Private property; and
3. Social property.

Under this framework, the Nation retains original ownership over lands, waters, and natural resources, while the State regulates land use and natural resource management according to principles of public interest, social welfare, and environmental protection.

1. Public property includes strategic natural resources such as forests, waters, minerals, hydrocarbons, rivers, lakes, coastal areas, and marine resources that remain under direct ownership of the Nation. These assets are considered inalienable, imprescriptible, and outside commercial trade, although the federal government may grant concessions or temporary use rights under specific legal frameworks.
2. Private property grants individuals and legal entities the rights of use, enjoyment, usufruct, and disposition over land and natural resources, including the ability to transfer, lease, inherit, or sell property. However, private property rights remain subject to the social function of property established under Article 27, which allows the State to impose land-use regulations, environmental restrictions, expropriation measures, and conservation obligations in cases of public utility, ecological protection, or social interest.
3. Social property refers to ejidos and agrarian communities established through agrarian reform processes that redistributed approximately 100 million hectares to more than two million campesinos during the twentieth century. Social property currently represents approximately 50.7% of the national territory and is organized through more than 32,000 agrarian nuclei composed of ejidos and agrarian communities.

Ejidal lands are divided into lands for human settlements, common-use lands, and individual parceled lands. Ownership rights are exercised collectively through assemblies or individually by ejidatarios over assigned parcels, depending on the type of land tenure within the ejido or agrarian community. Common-use lands constitute the economic basis of communal life and are generally inalienable, imprescriptible, and exempt from seizure, while parceled lands provide usufruct and use rights to individual ejidatarios. The 1992 constitutional reforms recognized the legal personality of ejidos and agrarian communities, enabled limited privatization of ejidal parcels, allowed associations with private investors, and established mechanisms for land certification and regularization through programs such as PROCEDE and FANAR.

Mexico has also developed a broad legal and institutional framework to regulate land tenure, strengthen legal certainty, and resolve agrarian conflicts. Programs such as PROCEDE and FANAR supported the regularization and certification of communal and ejidal lands, while institutions including the National Agrarian Registry (RAN), Agrarian Courts, the Agrarian Attorney's Office, SEMARNAT, CONAFOR, and SEDATU oversee land registration, mediation, territorial planning, forest governance, and conflict resolution processes.

Where land conflicts or tenure disputes exist, Mexico has established legal mechanisms for their resolution. In the case of ejidos and agrarian communities, disputes related to land rights, boundaries, ownership, possession, and use are addressed through the agrarian justice system, under the jurisdiction of the competent agrarian authorities and courts.

The General Law on Sustainable Forest Development (LGDFS) recognizes the rights of ejidos, agrarian communities, indigenous peoples, private landholders, and legitimate possessors over forest resources while establishing obligations related to sustainable forest management, conservation, restoration, climate change mitigation, and environmental protection. Access to environmental subsidies, restoration incentives, payment for ecosystem services schemes, and climate finance mechanisms depends on demonstrating legal ownership or legitimate possession of land, reinforcing the importance of tenure

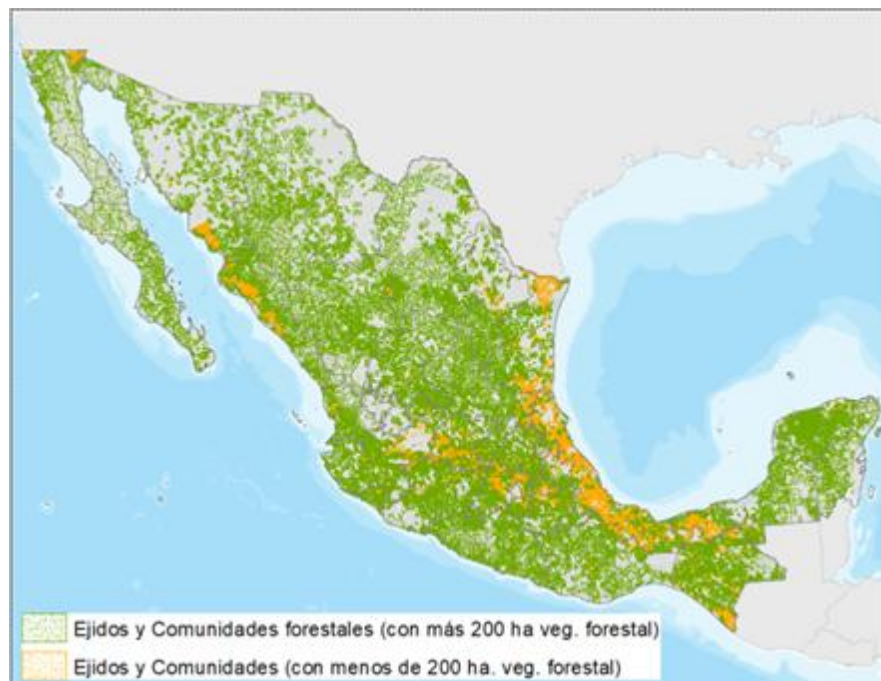
regularization and territorial governance structures in rural and forest landscapes.

Social property, which includes ejidos and agrarian communities, is particularly relevant for REDD+ implementation because a significant share of the country's forests is located in lands under collective tenure. Ejidos and agrarian communities have legally recognized governance structures and internal rules that guide decision-making over land use, access to natural resources, participation in public programs, and benefit-sharing arrangements.

According to data from the National Agrarian Registry (RAN), as of 2024 Mexico had 32,261 agrarian nuclei, including 28,525 ejidos and 1,995 agrarian communities. Registered ejido property exceeds 82.2 million hectares, while registered communal property covers approximately 17.4 million hectares.

Approximately 16,953 agrarian nuclei (ejidos and agrarian communities) own more than 70 million hectares of forest land nationwide equivalent to 50.9 percent of Mexico's forest area. Ejidos account for the largest share, with approximately 60.5 million hectares of forest area, equivalent to 43.6 percent of the national forest area. Agrarian communities account for approximately 10.1 million hectares, equivalent to 7.3 percent of the national forest area. Of the total agrarian nuclei, those ejidos and communities with over 200 hectares of forest cover are considered forest agrarian nuclei. Within forest agrarian nuclei, approximately 5.6 million people reside in 43,755 localities, including more than 1.8 million people belonging to indigenous households.

Figure 3. Forest agrarian nuclei (ejidos and communities)



Source: CONAFOR with data from Land Use and Vegetation Map, Series VII; and INEGI (2020) – National Population and Housing Census.

States such as Oaxaca, Guerrero, Chiapas, Michoacán, Jalisco, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán contain extensive areas of forest land under ejido and agrarian community ownership, reinforcing the importance of communal governance systems for forest conservation, sustainable land management, and local

livelihoods. Table 1 includes the number of forest agrarian nuclei and its forest cover in the selected states of Mexico's RBP proposal.

Table 1. Forest Agrarian Nuclei in selected states

State	Forest Agrarian Nuclei	Forest Area within Agrarian Nuclei (ha)
Chiapas	1,167	1,782,291
Oaxaca	974	3,633,165
Guerrero	954	3,220,306
Michoacán	1,072	1,464,157
Jalisco	903	1,595,963
Quintana Roo	275	2,599,088
Yucatán	604	1,539,281

The national legal framework recognizes the rights of landowners and legitimate right holders over land and forest resources, as well as the role of forest owners and possessors in the conservation, protection, restoration, production, management and sustainable use of forest ecosystems. In the context of social property, general assemblies constitute the highest decision-making bodies of ejidos and agrarian communities and are central to decisions concerning land use, common-use areas, forest management, participation in government programs, and the distribution of benefits.

Customary relationships to land and forest resources are particularly relevant in Indigenous and community territories, where land, forests, water and biodiversity may have social, cultural, spiritual, economic and environmental significance. Traditional knowledge, customary governance systems and collective management practices contribute to forest conservation, biodiversity protection and sustainable resource use. Women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples and other vulnerable groups may face barriers to participating in land and forest governance, particularly where access to land rights, assembly participation, technical assistance, credit, subsidies or productive assets is limited. These barriers can affect their ability to participate in and benefit from REDD+ activities.

Rights to carbon in Mexico

Under Mexico's General Law on Sustainable Forest Development (LGDFS), forest resources belong to the owners of the land on which they are located. Consequently, carbon stored in forest biomass is considered part of the forest resources and, together with the associated benefits, belongs to the legal owners or legitimate holders of the forest land. This provides legal certainty regarding ownership of carbon removals generated through the growth and conservation of forest ecosystems.

The legal treatment of avoided emissions is different. Deforestation is prohibited under Mexican law and is addressed through public policies aimed at preventing forest loss and degradation. Because deforestation is an illegal activity, the Government of Mexico has established that avoided emissions do not generate private property rights and are not linked to land tenure. Consequently, payments cannot be made simply for refraining from carrying out an illegal activity. The Federal Criminal Code establishes penalties for unauthorized forest clearing, illegal logging, and unauthorized changes in forest land use.

This legal framework is complemented by Article 138 Bis of the LGDFS, which establishes the institutional framework for cooperative forest-sector emission reduction mechanisms. The provision authorizes the Ministry of Environment, with technical support from CONAFOR and in coordination with other competent institutions and state governments, to enter into international agreements covering emission reductions, including avoided emissions. Where emission reductions are transferred internationally, the law requires technical review by the relevant authorities to prevent double counting and ensure consistency with Mexico's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

With respect to benefit-sharing, Article 138 Bis provides that revenues generated through results-based payments for emission reductions must be distributed through a participatory and inclusive Benefit Sharing Plan, consistent with the objectives, safeguards, and principles of Mexico's forest policy. The law also recognizes that owners and legitimate holders of forest lands may generate and transfer carbon credits from carbon removals in voluntary carbon markets, subject to the regulations established by the Ministry of Environment.

3.3. Legal and institutional framework related to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population

This IPPF is grounded in a comprehensive legal and policy framework comprising constitutional provisions, international commitments ratified by the Government of Mexico, and national and sectoral legislation. Together, these instruments establish the legal basis for protecting the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities, ensuring their effective participation in development processes, and promoting substantive equality, including specific attention to the rights of Indigenous women.

At the international level, Mexico is a Party to the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), which recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples to determine their own development priorities and to participate in the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies, plans, and programs that may affect them. It also requires consultation and the assessment of potential social, cultural, and environmental impacts in cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, as well as measures to protect their lands, territories, and resources. These principles are further reinforced by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which affirm the rights to self-determination, effective participation, protection from adverse impacts, access to effective remedies, and recognition of the differentiated rights and circumstances of Indigenous women.

Political Constitution of the United Mexican States

Mexico's national policy, legal and regulatory framework recognizes a broad set of fundamental rights that are relevant for this IPPF. This includes the 2011 constitutional reform on human rights which marked a major shift in Mexico's legal framework by establishing that all persons in Mexico shall enjoy the human rights recognized in the Constitution and in the international treaties to which the Mexican State is a party, as well as the guarantees for their protection. It also established that human rights norms shall be interpreted in accordance with the Constitution and international treaties, favoring at all times the broadest protection of persons. In addition, all authorities, within their respective competencies, are required to promote, respect, protect and guarantee human rights in accordance with the principles of universality, interdependence, indivisibility and progressivity.

The Constitution also prohibits all forms of discrimination based on ethnic or national origin, gender, age, disability, social condition, health condition, religion, opinions, sexual preferences, marital status or any other ground that violates human dignity and seeks to annul or impair the rights and freedoms of persons. This constitutional non-discrimination clause provides a legal basis for ensuring inclusive access to information, participation, consultation, benefits and grievance redress, particularly for Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples, women, youth, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable or historically excluded groups. The constitutional framework further recognizes the right of every person to a healthy environment for their development and well-being. This right provides a fundamental legal basis for environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest management, ecosystem restoration and climate action.

The Mexican Constitution recognizes the pluricultural composition of the Nation, originally based on its Indigenous Peoples, and establishes the rights to self-determination, autonomy, cultural identity, access to justice, participation, and the preservation and strengthening of Indigenous languages, knowledge, institutions and forms of social, economic, political and cultural organization. This constitutional recognition was further strengthened through the 2024 constitutional reform on Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples, which recognized Indigenous peoples and communities as subjects of public law with legal personality and their own patrimony. This reform constitutes a significant development in Mexico's national PLR framework, as it reinforces the legal status of Indigenous peoples and communities, strengthens the basis for the exercise of collective rights, and provides a stronger foundation for their participation in public decision-making, territorial governance, resource management and development planning.

The Constitution further guarantees the right of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican women to participate effectively and on the basis of substantive equality in the development of their peoples and communities and in public decision-making (Article 2, Section A, paragraph D*). It also mandates the State to promote, protect, and guarantee their rights to education, health, land ownership and tenure, and the full enjoyment of their human rights, while addressing the structural discrimination they have historically experienced

The Constitution also recognizes Afro-Mexican peoples and communities as part of the pluricultural composition of the Nation and establishes the basis for the protection of their rights, identity, culture, institutions and forms of organization. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples and local communities have historically played a central role in the conservation, management and sustainable use of forests and other natural resources in Mexico. Many forest areas are located within ejidos, agrarian communities and Indigenous territories, where collective decision-making structures, customary norms and community-based governance systems influence land and resource management.

Specific laws for Indigenous Peoples

Other relevant regulatory instruments include the Law of the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI), published in 2018, which strengthened the institutional framework for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican peoples and communities, including their rights to participation and culturally appropriate public policy. The law establishes that the National Institute for Indigenous Peoples (INPI) is responsible for promoting the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican peoples and communities in national development processes and for coordinating consultation and participation mechanisms related to public policies and programs affecting these populations.

Also, the General Law on the Linguistic Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes Indigenous languages as national languages with the same validity as Spanish and establishes the obligation of public authorities to guarantee access to public information and services in Indigenous languages where appropriate. This supports culturally appropriate participation and access to information involving Indigenous communities.

More recently, the Government of Mexico launched, on 29 June 2026, a nationwide consultation on the proposed General Law on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican Communities through a Call for Consultation published in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (DOF). Coordinated by the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI), the consultation will engage 16,728 Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities representing the country's 69 Indigenous Peoples and the Afro-Mexican People, with the draft law translated into 68 Indigenous languages to ensure broad and culturally appropriate participation. The proposed law seeks to operationalize the constitutional recognition of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples by strengthening their rights to self-determination, autonomy, collective territorial rights, free, prior and informed consultation and consent (FPIC), and participation in public affairs, before its planned submission to the Chamber of Deputies on 12 October 2026.

Agrarian Law

The national legal framework protects Indigenous lands through the Agrarian Law. With regard to land tenure and territorial protection, the Law establishes that lands belonging to Indigenous Peoples are subject to special protection by the competent authorities, recognizing their fundamental importance for the subsistence, cultural identity, and historical continuity of these communities. This provision places an obligation on the State to safeguard the integrity of Indigenous lands and to prevent actions that may affect their possession, use, and enjoyment. This legal protection is particularly relevant for projects implemented in Indigenous territories or projects whose activities may have direct or indirect impacts on Indigenous lands and resources.

General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection

The Law recognizes the right of communities, including Indigenous Peoples, to the protection, conservation, sustainable use, and management of natural resources and biodiversity. It further requires that Indigenous Peoples be consulted during the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of environmental and natural resource policies so that they can express their views and proposals. Article 15 establishes these principles as guiding elements for the formulation of environmental policy and the issuance of environmental regulations and other legal instruments. The Law also requires the Federal Government to promote the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the formulation and implementation of environmental policy, environmental information and monitoring activities, and broader environmental governance.

General Law on Sustainable Forest Development (LGDFS)

Within the forest sector, the LGDFS promotes the participation of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities in sustainable forest management. Article 1 establishes that sustainable forest development contributes to social well-being; Article 5 recognizes that forest resources correspond to landowners; and Article 31 links forest policy to improved livelihoods and community development. Particularly Article 8, requires forest policy instruments to guarantee respect for safeguards and human rights, including equitable benefit-sharing, legal certainty regarding land tenure and access to natural resources, social participation, inclusion, gender equity, transparency and respect for the forms of internal organization and

self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and communities. The same article also recognizes the importance of respecting traditional cultural practices and ensuring culturally appropriate conflict-resolution mechanisms. Article 152 creates the National Forestry Council as a consultative and advisory body involving government authorities, Indigenous Peoples, producers, civil society organizations and academic institutions in forest policy processes. Following subsequent reforms, the safeguards framework also incorporated explicit recognition of Afro-Mexican peoples and communities.

Consultation and FPIC

Mexico's legal framework also guarantees the right of Indigenous Peoples to participate in culturally and linguistically appropriate consultation processes. The right to consultation of Indigenous Peoples and communities in Mexico is recognized in Article 2 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, as well as in ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. This framework establishes the obligation of the State to consult Indigenous Peoples and communities, through culturally appropriate procedures and their representative institutions, whenever legislative or administrative measures that may directly affect them are envisaged. Consultation must be carried out in a prior, free, informed, and good faith manner, with the objective of reaching agreements and, where appropriate, obtaining consent regarding the proposed measures.

At the same time, the national legal framework recognizes the right of Indigenous Peoples and communities to self-determination, autonomy, their own forms of organization, internal normative systems, and decision-making processes. In the case of ejidos and agrarian communities, the Agrarian Law recognizes the Assembly as the highest decision-making authority. As such, decisions regarding participation in programs, projects, or support schemes involving land, natural resources, common goods, or collective decisions must be adopted in accordance with their internal procedures and formally recorded in official meeting minutes.

Institutional and Policy Framework

The National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI) is the federal authority responsible for coordinating Indigenous policy and ensuring the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the design, implementation, and monitoring of public policies and development programs. The INPI supports Indigenous Traditional Authorities in preparing regional diagnostics, consolidating their priorities and proposals, facilitating agreements with federal, state, and municipal government institutions, and monitoring their implementation, with the objective of improving community well-being and addressing local development challenges.

The National Institute of Indigenous Languages (INALI) is the federal institution responsible for promoting, preserving, strengthening, and developing Mexico's Indigenous languages, as well as protecting the linguistic rights of Indigenous Peoples. Under the General Law on the Linguistic Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Mexico recognizes 68 Indigenous languages grouped into 11 linguistic families and comprising 364 linguistic variants. The Law also establishes that Indigenous languages and Spanish are national languages with the same legal validity in the territories where they are spoken. In this context, INALI supports public institutions in promoting the use, preservation, and development of Indigenous languages and contributes to culturally and linguistically appropriate communication with Indigenous Peoples.

The National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) is the federal institution responsible for promoting the conservation, restoration, sustainable management, and productive use of Mexico's forest ecosystems, as

well as implementing national forest policy and supporting sustainable rural development in forest landscapes. Given that a large share of Mexico's forests is located within territories owned, managed, or inhabited by Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population, CONAFOR plays a particularly important role in supporting them through its forest programs, technical assistance and capacity development initiatives. Through forest sector policies, such as the National REDD+ Strategy and National Forestry Program, CONAFOR promotes the recognition of Indigenous rights, traditional knowledge, and community governance systems, while incorporating culturally appropriate engagement, and mechanisms to facilitate participation in decision-making and access to forest-related benefits. Within CONAFOR, the Gender and Social Inclusion Unit is responsible for promoting gender equality and the inclusion of youth, Indigenous Peoples and communities, and Afro-Mexican populations, helping to ensure that these considerations are integrated across the institution's policies, programs, and operations.

Mexico's National Development Plan recognizes Indigenous Peoples, communities, and Afro-Mexican peoples as a priority group through its Crosscutting Axis 3: Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Communities, and Afro-Mexican Peoples. Under this axis, Objective T3.3 seeks to implement policies and programs and allocate direct budgetary resources to Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities, guaranteeing their autonomous administration in order to strengthen the exercise of their rights and promote their well-being and integral, intercultural, and sustainable development. In parallel, Objective T3.6 aims to ensure the integral, intercultural, and sustainable development of these populations by safeguarding their autonomy and their right to self-determination, including the ability to define their own development models in ways that strengthen their well-being and quality of life.

The INPI through its Institutional Programme 2025–2030, includes as one of its strategic objectives the promotion of the integral, intercultural, and sustainable development of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican populations, with the aim of strengthening their economies, preserving their ecosystems and agroecological systems, and improving access to basic services, transportation, and community infrastructure. To achieve this objective, the Programme promotes, among other actions: (i) productive activities and measures to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change on the ecosystems inhabited by Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican populations, thereby strengthening their livelihoods and local economies; and (ii) initiatives that encourage local food production and the strengthening of agroecological practices to contribute to food sovereignty and self-sufficiency. These strategies include support for projects that promote the protection, restoration, and conservation of ecosystems and natural resources; strengthen productive activities through access to financing and technical assistance; and reinforce traditional production systems, including sustainable livestock management.

Within the forest sector, the National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+ 2017-2030) adopts a rights-based, participatory, and inclusive approach that recognizes Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population as key actors in the sustainable management of forest landscapes. The Strategy explicitly promotes the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population, respect for their rights, traditional knowledge, governance systems, and cultural values, while emphasizing social inclusion and gender equality as guiding principles for REDD+ implementation. ENAREDD+ also includes dedicated components on social and environmental safeguards, communication and capacity development, and social participation and transparency, all of which contain actions aimed at strengthening culturally appropriate engagement, improving access to information, building local capacities, and ensuring effective participation in decision-making processes. In addition, the Strategy promotes integrated territorial management, sustainable livelihoods, conservation, restoration, and sustainable production systems that contribute to the well-being and resilience of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican population, and local communities.

A key guiding instrument is also the National Forestry Program (PNF) 2026–2030 which recognizes sustainable forest management as a key instrument for biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, poverty reduction, and the strengthening of social cohesion. The Program explicitly prioritizes Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities, acknowledging their fundamental role as stewards of forest ecosystems and recognizing that nearly 70% of Mexico's forest ecosystems are located within Indigenous and agrarian territories. The PNF therefore promotes culturally appropriate forest policies that strengthen community rights, improve livelihoods, and support sustainable forest management while respecting human rights and promoting substantive gender equality.

The Program recognizes that climate vulnerability is differentiated, with women, Indigenous Peoples, children, older persons, and rural forest-dependent communities facing disproportionate impacts due to historical inequalities in access to resources, infrastructure, finance, education, and decision-making. Consequently, the forestry sector is expected to play a dual role by contributing both to climate change mitigation and to socially just adaptation. Through the PNF 2026–2030, Mexico seeks to conserve, protect, and sustainably manage forest ecosystems to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services, while positioning forests as a vehicle for poverty reduction, reducing inequalities, and strengthening social cohesion. These actions are implemented with full respect for human rights and substantive gender equality, prioritizing historically marginalized groups, particularly Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities, and are aligned with the principles of Mexican Humanism and the National Development Plan (PND) 2025–2030.

Within this framework, Objective 5 of the PNF 2026–2030 specifically promotes the participation of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and Afro-Mexican communities in the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of forest ecosystems. In line with Transversal Axes 1 (Gender Equality) and 3 (Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican Communities) of the PND 2025–2030, the Program mainstreams gender equality and social inclusion by integrating the rights, knowledge, and perspectives of women, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican communities, persons with disabilities, youth, and other vulnerable groups into forest policy. It also promotes culturally appropriate participation, strengthens local capacities, addresses cultural and gender-based discrimination and violence, and recognizes the central role of women and Indigenous communities in environmental stewardship and sustainable forest governance.

These commitments are operationalized through a comprehensive set of strategies and action lines that mainstream Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican communities, gender equality, and social inclusion across sustainable forest management, restoration, governance, institutional strengthening, capacity development, financing, safeguards, and knowledge management.

Table 2.Strategic areas and components of the National Forestry Program

PNF Strategic Area	Examples of actions relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities
Community forestry and sustainable forest production (Objective 1)	Strengthen technical assistance providers; develop specialized advisory services; support community forest enterprises; integrate sustainable forest management into value chains benefiting Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities.

Productive forest restoration (Strategy 3.2)	Promote agroforestry and silvopastoral systems to increase productivity while benefiting rural communities, women, and Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples.
Sustainable forest value chains (Strategy 3.3)	Expand sustainable value chains and financing mechanisms for restoration and productive initiatives led by women, youth, and Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities.
Inclusive regulatory framework and access to support programs (Strategy 5.1)	Strengthen recognition of collective territorial rights, simplify administrative procedures, and ensure culturally appropriate and preferential access to forestry programs and incentives.
Territorial governance and safeguards (Strategy 5.3)	Strengthen community participation, territorial governance, decision-making processes, institutional capacities, and the implementation of environmental and social safeguards in Indigenous territories.
Capacity development and technical assistance (Strategies 1.1 & 5.4)	Build the capacities of technical advisors through continuous training using gender-responsive, intercultural, and culturally appropriate approaches to better support Indigenous communities, ejidos, and forest producers.
Transparency, participation and accountability (Strategy 5.5)	Promote participatory monitoring, collaborative governance networks, and recognition of Indigenous knowledge and traditional practices as legitimate sources of information for forest governance.
Intercultural communication and environmental education (Strategy 5.6)	Develop communication campaigns in Indigenous languages and culturally appropriate educational materials that incorporate Indigenous worldviews, gender equality, and intergenerational knowledge.
Gender equality and social inclusion (Strategy 5.7)	Mainstream gender equality and inclusion by strengthening the participation, leadership, rights, and capacities of women, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican communities, youth, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups across the forestry sector.

CONAFOR operationalizes and implements these PRONAFOR strategies at the territorial level through its subsidy programs.

CONAFOR's public incentive programs constitute the primary mechanism for delivering actions at the territorial level. These programs support forest conservation, restoration and sustainable management, while addressing underlying drivers of deforestation.

Forest incentive programs are designed to support a wide range of forest policy objectives and to benefit forest owners, including communities, ejidos and small landholders. They are voluntary and demand-driven, covering diverse activities across forestlands. Broadly, these programs fall into two categories: (i) sustainable forest productivity programs, which promote community forestry enterprises, forest management, and value chain development; and (ii) conservation and restoration programs, which support environmental services, ecosystem restoration and land-use transitions.

Support may be provided in cash or in kind, in line with the Operating Rules. Where demand exceeds available funding, applications are prioritized based on established criteria (Criterios de Prelación). These criteria and program guidelines are updated annually to reflect national priorities and evolving local needs. Forest owners may also participate in multiple programs simultaneously.

Financing for these programs is provided through federal budget allocations and transfers to the Mexican Forest Fund (Fondo Forestal Mexicano), administered by CONAFOR. Since 2008, the Operating Rules have evolved from administrative instruments governing subsidy allocation into key operational tools that integrate environmental and social considerations into forest sector policy implementation, thereby supporting inclusive REDD+ implementation.

The Operating Rules incorporate several provisions to safeguard the rights of Indigenous Peoples. They do not promote changes in land tenure or the resettlement of collective or private forest landowners, nor do they impose unilateral restrictions on access to forest resources or coercive measures. Instead, participation is voluntary: communities may choose to receive technical and financial support in exchange for adopting sustainable forest management, conservation, restoration, land-use conversion, and sustainable use practices. The Rules also seek to strengthen the governance and decision-making capacity of ejidos, communities, and Indigenous Peoples.

Access to program support is based on community self-determination and collective decision-making. Financial support is granted to Indigenous communities only upon the formal decision of their community assembly or traditional governance bodies, in accordance with their customary laws and practices, and applies to collectively owned forest lands. Applicants must demonstrate legal ownership or tenure of the land; however, where formal documentation is unavailable, Indigenous communities may provide evidence consistent with their customary governance systems. Ejidos and communities may also demonstrate land possession or use through documentation issued by the comisariado ejidal or comisariado de bienes comunales.

The Operating Rules also establish that program support is provided without discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, or any other prohibited ground. In addition, the eligibility criteria give higher priority to applications from producers located in Indigenous-majority municipalities and areas with high or very high levels of marginalization, thereby directing greater support to historically underserved territories.

Beyond financial incentives, the programs serve as vehicles for strengthening community governance and sustainable rural development by building local management capacities, developing social capital, promoting producer organization at community and regional levels, strengthening value chains, and supporting training, capacity development, and technology transfer.

3.4. Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population in the context of this RBP

The project intervention area comprises tropical dry forest landscapes in the states of Jalisco, Michoacán, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Chiapas, Yucatán and Quintana Roo. These landscapes are characterized by considerable environmental, social, cultural and linguistic diversity and are inhabited, used or culturally connected to Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican communities, ejidos, agrarian communities, small-scale livestock producers and other rural populations.

At the current stage of project design, the specific ejidos, agrarian communities, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population, producer groups and individual beneficiaries that will participate in project activities have not yet been selected. Accordingly, this section provides a preliminary characterization of

the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population identified in the states and ecological regions potentially covered by the RBP.

The characterization focuses on peoples that may be located in, use, or maintain collective attachment to tropical dry forest landscapes and associated agricultural and livestock areas. It does not seek to provide an exhaustive description of all Indigenous Peoples present in each state. In Michoacán, for example, the Purépecha people are not included in the preliminary characterization because their principal territories are associated with temperate forest ecosystems outside the tropical dry forest landscapes targeted by the proposal.

The preliminary identification is as follows:

Table 3. Indigenous Peoples in the selected states of the RBP proposal

State	Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population preliminarily identified
Michoacán	Afro-Mexican; Pirinda or Matlatzinca; Nahua
Jalisco	Nahua; O'dam or Southern Tepehuan; Wixárika
Chiapas	Afro-Mexican; Mam; Tseltal; Tsotsil; Zoque
Guerrero	Afro-Mexican; Amuzgo; Me'phaa or Tlapaneco; Mixtec; Nahua
Oaxaca	Afro-Mexican; Amuzgo; Chatino; Ikoots or Huave; Mixtec; Nahua; Tacuate; Zapotec
Yucatán	Maya
Quintana Roo	Maya

This list is preliminary and must not be interpreted as a closed administrative classification. During project inception, it will be verified against: specific eligible municipalities and localities; boundaries and composition of participating agrarian nuclei; National Catalogue of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples and Communities prepared by the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI); INEGI census and geostatistical information; community self-identification; Indigenous languages and linguistic variants; current and historical occupation and use of lands and natural resources; collective attachment to forests, water sources, sacred places and cultural landscapes; and representative institutions and decision-making systems recognized by each people and community

Self-identification will be used as a fundamental criterion. The application of this IPPF will not depend exclusively on whether a community appears in an official registry, whether its land is formally titled as Indigenous property, or whether most of its members speak an Indigenous language.

This approach is consistent with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy, which applies whenever Indigenous Peoples are present in, have, or have had collective attachment or rights to areas where GCF-financed activities will be implemented, regardless of formal State recognition, the legal status of land tenure, or whether expected impacts are positive or negative.

The INPI National Catalogue will be used as an important official reference, but it will be complemented by participatory verification. The Catalogue recognizes Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities as collective entities with political, legal, territorial, economic, social and cultural institutions. It also recognizes pluricultural communities formed by members of more than one Indigenous or Afro-Mexican people living in the same territory.

The RBP proposal fully recognizes that, although conditions differ considerably among regions and communities, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican populations face important constraints in comparison to non-indigenous population. These include high levels of multidimensional poverty and extreme poverty; dependence on subsistence agriculture, informal employment and temporary wage labour; inadequate access to social security; limited and geographically distant healthcare services; educational gaps and higher levels of illiteracy, particularly among women and older persons; limited access to safe water, sanitation, transport and digital connectivity; dependence on intermediaries for commercialization; migration as an important household income strategy; limited access to credit, insurance and culturally appropriate technical assistance; language-related barriers to public programs and justice; lower participation of women and young people in formal agrarian decision-making; and greater exposure to climate variability, drought, hurricanes, soil degradation and loss of natural resources.

3.4.1 Characterization of each of the Indigenous and Afro-Mexican groups in states of the RBP proposal

1. Michoacán

Nahua people

Nahua communities in Michoacán are concentrated primarily in the coastal and southern parts of the state. Their language belongs to the Yuto-Nahua family, although language use, vitality and linguistic variants differ among communities.

The coastal Nahua region includes tropical and subtropical vegetation, agricultural land, rivers and coastal resources. Community livelihoods may combine seasonal agriculture, maize cultivation, fruit production, livestock, fisheries, small-scale trade, wage labour, forestry-related activities and migration.

Community institutions may include agrarian assemblies, traditional authorities, municipal or auxiliary authorities, religious office systems and other locally recognized forms of representation. These institutions do not necessarily have identical membership or mandates. The project must therefore determine which institutions have legitimacy to represent the people or community in relation to territorial, cultural and productive decisions.

In tropical dry forest areas, Nahua households may depend on the same landscape for agriculture, grazing, fuelwood, medicinal plants, wild foods and water. Project measures seeking to modify livestock or land-management practices must consider the relationship between individual parcels, common-use lands and collective community rules.

Potential risks include restrictions on customary access to forest resources, conflicts between conservation commitments and household production needs, unequal participation of women and persons without full agrarian rights, and the use of technical models that do not reflect local environmental knowledge.

Challenges and tensions. Potential pressures include change in land use, illegal logging, insecurity, agrarian disputes and tensions between dry-forest conservation and household agricultural or livestock needs. Any activity in communities affected by disputes or violence will require conflict-sensitive engagement and assessment of risks to community representatives and environmental defenders.

Socioeconomic conditions and access to services. Rural coastal and mountain localities in southern Michoacán generally face dispersed settlement, long travel distances to health services and upper-secondary education, limited formal employment and reliance on agriculture, livestock, fishing, wage

labour, commerce and migration. During preparation of the project-level IPP, available data will be deepened at ejido and community level regarding poverty, educational attainment, healthcare access, housing services, employment, migration, landholding status and access to public programmes.

Historical and cultural context. Nahua peoples form part of a broad Mesoamerican historical and linguistic tradition, but Nahua communities of coastal and southern Michoacán have distinct territorial trajectories. Community identity is reproduced through language, kinship, assemblies, festivities, collective work and knowledge of agricultural, forest and coastal environments. Cultural continuity does not depend exclusively on current language use, as displacement, schooling, migration and discrimination have contributed to language loss in some localities.

Pirinda or Matlatzinca identity

The preliminary screening identifies Pirinda or Matlatzinca population in Michoacán. However, the official territorial classification of the contemporary Matlatzinca people is principally associated with the State of Mexico, while historical references to Pirinda populations extend into parts of Michoacán.

The project will not assume that historical references automatically correspond to communities that currently self-identify as Pirinda or Matlatzinca in eligible tropical dry forest municipalities. Their presence must be verified through the INPI Catalogue, local records and, most importantly, direct community self-identification.

Where communities or groups self-identify as Pirinda or Matlatzinca, the project will document their current territorial attachment, representative institutions, cultural practices, language use and specific relationship with dry-forest landscapes. They will not be excluded because of limited language use, historical assimilation, migration or the absence of formal administrative recognition.

Socioeconomic information gap. The limited availability of disaggregated statistics for Pirinda or Matlatzinca populations in Michoacán is itself a material information gap. During preparation of the project-level IPP, information will be deepened at community and ejido level on identity, language, livelihoods, access to land, education, healthcare, housing services, employment, migration and participation in collective institutions.

Historical and information considerations. Historical references to Pirinda populations in Michoacán reflect long-term settlement, interaction and cultural reconfiguration. Because most contemporary official information on the Matlatzinca people is concentrated in the State of Mexico, historical naming cannot be used as a substitute for present-day self-identification in Michoacán.

Afro-Mexican population

Afro-Mexican presence in Michoacán is less territorially concentrated than in the Costa Chica of Guerrero and Oaxaca. The project will therefore verify whether Afro-Mexican communities or populations are located in the final eligible municipalities and whether they maintain collective territorial, productive or cultural relationships with the proposed intervention areas.

For Afro-Mexican persons and communities in Michoacán, the project IPP process will verify whether self-identifying populations in eligible municipalities maintain collective organization, territorial links or shared productive and cultural practices. Specific attention will be paid to potential statistical invisibility, racial discrimination and exclusion when targeting relies only on Indigenous-language indicators.

2. Jalisco

Wixárika people

The Wixárika people inhabit territories in the Sierra Madre Occidental, principally in northern Jalisco and neighbouring areas of Nayarit, Durango and Zacatecas. In Jalisco, important Wixárika territories are located in the municipalities of Mezquitic and Bolaños.

Wixárika territoriality extends beyond residential settlements and formally titled agrarian boundaries. It comprises forests, agricultural plots, grazing areas, water sources, hills, caves, pilgrimage routes and sacred places located across several states. Consequently, project screening must consider cultural and spiritual attachment as well as direct physical occupation.

The coamil, a traditional hillside agricultural system, is central to Wixárika livelihoods and culture. Maize, beans, squash, amaranth and chile are cultivated, while livestock, handicrafts, wage labour, migration and public-sector employment may provide complementary income.

Wixárika governance involves agrarian authorities, traditional authorities and ceremonial institutions. Their roles may overlap but should not be treated as equivalent. Decisions concerning project participation must follow culturally legitimate procedures agreed with each community.

The Wixárika people have also experienced territorial pressures associated with agrarian conflicts, mining concessions and threats to sacred sites and pilgrimage routes. Even where an eligible RBP activity is physically distant from a sacred place, indirect or cumulative impacts on cultural landscapes must be assessed¹.

Conflicts and territorial pressures. Wixárika communities have longstanding agrarian disputes and have defended sacred sites and pilgrimage routes against mining and other development pressures. The Wirikuta case is a particularly relevant documented mining-related conflict. Although the RBP does not finance mining, overlapping concessions and extractive interests must be screened because they can affect trust, representation, water, sacred sites and the safety of defenders.

Socioeconomic conditions. Many Wixárika settlements are geographically dispersed and face difficult road access, limited health infrastructure, educational discontinuity beyond basic levels, language barriers, high transport costs and restricted access to markets and technical services. Handicraft production and temporary migration can be important income sources, while women often combine farming, livestock care, crafts, household work and ceremonial responsibilities.

Historical and cultural context. Wixárika identity is closely linked to a network of communities, ceremonial centres, sacred places and pilgrimage routes extending across several states. Agricultural cycles, deer and maize symbolism, ritual offices and collective journeys are central to cultural reproduction. These dimensions require the project to understand territory as a cultural landscape rather than only as titled agrarian land.

Nahua people of Jalisco

Nahua communities in Jalisco are historically associated with the southern and coastal regions of the

¹ INPI Wixárika ethnography, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/huicholes-etnografia/>; CNDH Recommendation 56/2012 on Wirikuta, https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/doc/Recomendaciones/2012/Rec_2012_056.pdf; INEGI Census 2020.

Nahua communities in Jalisco are historically associated with the southern and coastal regions of the state. They are internally diverse and may combine communal land tenure, ejidal institutions and individual production units.

Livelihoods may include maize cultivation, fruit production, livestock, forestry activities, wage labour, trade and migration. In dry-forest landscapes, the project will examine how grazing and livestock activities interact with collective forest management, water availability, agricultural cycles and customary access to natural resources.

The project will also assess whether decisions taken by agrarian assemblies adequately include Indigenous residents who are not recognized as ejidatarios or comuneros.

Socioeconomic conditions and pressures. Small-scale agriculture, fruit production, livestock, forestry-related activities, wage labour and migration are important in different localities. Challenges may include unequal access to agrarian rights, water scarcity, limited health and education services, market dependence, land-use change and territorial disputes. The project-level IPP will deepen these matters at the level of participating ejidos and communities.

Historical and cultural context. Nahua communities in southern and coastal Jalisco maintain regionally specific forms of identity, communal governance, ritual life and relations with forests, rivers and agricultural land. Language vitality varies, and loss or reduced use of Nahuatl must not be treated as loss of Indigenous identity.

O'dam or Southern Tepehuan presence

Based on the project's preliminary identification and the INPI National Catalogue of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples and Communities, two Southern Tepehuan or O'dam communities have been identified in northern Jalisco. Their presence is therefore part of the preliminary socio-cultural and territorial scope of the project rather than a purely hypothetical consideration.

During preparation of the project-level IPP in the inception phase, the project will deepen information on their precise location in relation to eligible dry-forest intervention areas; collective attachment; land and natural-resource use; representative and ceremonial institutions; livelihood systems; language preferences; and culturally appropriate decision-making arrangements.

Where these communities are located in, use, or maintain collective attachment to the project area, the project will apply self-identification, meaningful and representative participation, culturally appropriate engagement and FPIC, as applicable. Particular attention will be given to cross-state kinship, ceremonial and governance relations and to ensuring that small population size does not result in exclusion from benefits or consultation.

3. Chiapas

Chiapas has one of the largest and most diverse Indigenous populations in Mexico. The project's focus on dry-forest and livestock landscapes means that state-level Indigenous presence must be refined geographically. Not all Tseltal, Tsotsil, Mam or Zoque territories are located in dry-forest ecosystems, and only communities within or connected to eligible landscapes will be covered by specific project measures.

Tseltal people

The Tseltal people are distributed across the Chiapas Highlands, northern Chiapas and portions of the eastern and central parts of the state. Their language belongs to the Mayan linguistic family. Social and

political organization varies among municipalities and communities and may involve community assemblies, agrarian authorities, traditional offices, religious organizations and municipal institutions.

Agriculture is a central livelihood activity. Maize is a principal crop, while coffee, peanuts, fruit and other commercial products are cultivated in lower and more productive areas. Temporary agricultural labour and migration are important strategies when household production is insufficient.

For communities located in eligible dry-forest and livestock areas, the project will examine the distribution of land between household plots, grazing areas and common-use forest, as well as the role of migrant income and wage labour in livestock investment².

Socioeconomic conditions and tensions. Many households combine subsistence production with coffee, livestock, wage labour and migration. Land fragmentation, soil degradation, limited healthcare and secondary education, language barriers and dependence on intermediaries can constrain livelihoods. In some areas, agrarian disputes, political polarization, insecurity and extractive or infrastructure interests may affect participation and community cohesion.

Historical and cultural context. Tseltal communities are part of the Mayan cultural and linguistic world and maintain diverse systems of community service, assemblies, kinship, ritual practice and reciprocal labour. Territory is connected to milpa agriculture, coffee areas, water, forests and places of cultural significance.

Tsotsil people

The Tsotsil people are concentrated principally in the Chiapas Highlands and neighbouring regions. Agriculture, especially maize and bean production, remains central, although poor soil conditions, high population density and land fragmentation have contributed to temporary and permanent migration³.

Some households cultivate coffee and tropical fruits in lower areas, while women's textile production makes an important contribution to household economies. Women may contribute substantially to agricultural work, handicrafts, animal husbandry and household reproduction while having limited formal agrarian rights or public speaking roles.

Where Tsotsil communities are included, the project will pay particular attention to language, gender and internal differentiation.

Socioeconomic conditions and conflicts. Land scarcity, small plots, soil limitations, migration and limited access to health and education services affect many communities. Parts of the Tsotsil region have also experienced displacement, political-religious conflict, armed violence and disputes over municipal or community authority. Engagement must therefore assess whether conditions allow participation without coercion or retaliation.

Historical and cultural context. Tsotsil communities possess distinct forms of community organization, ritual responsibilities, textile traditions and agricultural knowledge. Women's textile production is both culturally significant and economically important, while formal authority structures may not fully reflect women's contributions.

Mam people

² INPI Tseltal ethnography, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/tseltales-tzeltales-etnografia/>; INEGI Census 2020; CONEVAL.

³ INPI Tsotsil ethnography, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/tsotsiles-tzotziles-etnografia/>; INEGI Census 2020; official human-rights information where relevant.

The Mam people are historically located in the Sierra and Soconusco regions of Chiapas and in neighbouring Guatemala. Their history is closely associated with border dynamics, coffee-estate development, land redistribution, agricultural labour and mobility.

Mam livelihoods include maize cultivation, coffee production, livestock and small-animal husbandry, wage labour, trade and migration. The project will consider vulnerability to climate variability, market volatility and migration and will assess women's participation in productive decision-making and access to technical support and project benefits⁴.

Socioeconomic context. Dependence on coffee and agricultural labour exposes households to climate and market volatility. Women's work in production, animal care, household food systems and commerce must be recognized in benefit design. Access to healthcare, education, transport and culturally appropriate public services will be deepened during project IPP preparation.

Historical and cultural context. Mam communities have cross-border historical and kinship ties with Guatemala. Coffee production, milpa agriculture, livestock care and wage labour have shaped settlement and mobility, while language transmission and identity have been affected by border policies, migration and discrimination.

Zoque people

Zoque territories extend across northern, central and western Chiapas. Livelihoods vary according to ecological region and include maize cultivation, coffee, livestock, forest products, wage labour and migration⁵.

In areas where livestock and forest use are relevant, the project will examine how land-use change, logging, grazing and agricultural expansion affect community resources.

Socioeconomic conditions and territorial pressures. Livelihoods may combine milpa, coffee, livestock, forest resources, wage labour and migration. Hydrocarbon development, mining interests, infrastructure, land-use change and natural hazards are relevant cumulative pressures in parts of Zoque territory. The project will distinguish documented conflicts from general risk and will not assume that all Zoque communities face the same pressures.

Historical and cultural context. Zoque peoples have deep historical roots in Chiapas and maintain distinct linguistic, ceremonial and agricultural traditions. Some communities were displaced or reorganized after the 1982 El Chichón eruption, creating enduring effects on territory, social organization and access to resources.

Afro-Mexican population

Afro-Mexican populations in Chiapas are less territorially concentrated than in Guerrero and Oaxaca. Their presence in coastal, urban and rural municipalities will be verified in relation to eligible project landscapes. Engagement will use self-identification and will not depend on Indigenous-language criteria.

For Afro-Mexican populations in Chiapas, the project will examine self-identification, community organization, livelihoods and territorial connection without relying on language as an eligibility criterion.

⁴ INPI Mam ethnography, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/mames-etnografia/>; INEGI Census 2020; CONEVAL.

⁵ INPI Zoque ethnography, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/zoques-de-chiapas-etnografia/>; INEGI Census 2020; official environmental and human-rights sources.

Information will be deepened at locality and community level because state-level data may conceal dispersed or migrant populations.

4. Guerrero

Many Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities in Guerrero face high poverty, limited public services, agricultural dependence, migration and serious security challenges. These conditions may affect the feasibility of participation, access to information and the safety of community representatives.

Amuzgo people

The Amuzgo people refer to themselves through different forms, including nn'anncue, and their language belongs to the Oto-Manguean family. Amuzgo communities are located in adjoining parts of Guerrero and Oaxaca, particularly around Xochistlahuaca, Tlacoachistlahuaca, San Pedro Amuzgos and Santa María Ipalapa.

Their territory includes warm tropical and sub-tropical ecosystems with rivers, hills, agricultural land and tropical vegetation. Household livelihoods include agriculture, livestock, wage labour, migration, handicrafts and trade. Women's backstrap-loom weaving is culturally and economically important, while access to markets is frequently mediated by intermediaries⁶.

Project engagement must consider women's economic contributions and ensure that textile producers, women without agrarian rights and younger community members can participate.

Tensions. Agrarian boundary disputes, insecurity, political conflict and pressure on water and land can affect community governance. Project benefit-sharing must avoid reinforcing inequalities between landholders and residents without agrarian rights.

Socioeconomic conditions. Agriculture, livestock, handicrafts, commerce, wage labour and migration are combined in different proportions. Limited market access and intermediary dependence affect textile and agricultural incomes, while remote communities may face restricted access to healthcare, upper-secondary education, water and transport.

Historical and cultural context. Amuzgo communities maintain strong cross-state cultural ties between Guerrero and Oaxaca. Textile knowledge, language, kinship, assemblies and agricultural cycles are central to identity. Women's weaving embodies knowledge of designs, plants and community history and should be recognized as cultural heritage as well as an income activity.

Me'phaa or Tlapaneco people

The Me'phaa people inhabit principally the Mountain and Costa-Montaña regions of Guerrero. Their territories include steep slopes, forests, agricultural plots and areas affected by erosion, limited road access and recurrent climate hazards.

Household economies commonly combine milpa agriculture, coffee in suitable areas, livestock, small-animal husbandry, handicrafts, wage labour and migration. Many communities face limited access to healthcare, education, transport and markets⁷.

6 INPI Amuzgo ethnography, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/amuzgos-etnografia/>; INEGI Census 2020; CONEVAL.

7 INPI Me'phaa information, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/>; Supreme Court and official case materials on Júba Wajíin; CNDH and human-rights sources; INEGI Census 2020.

Project processes must use the community's self-designation, Me'phaa, where preferred, and must not assume Spanish proficiency.

Mining conflict. The case of San Miguel del Progreso/Júba Wajín is a documented example of a Me'phaa community challenging mining concessions affecting communal territory. It illustrates the importance of screening concessions, respecting collective property and consultation rights, and preventing project engagement from being interpreted as support for extractive interests.

Socioeconomic conditions. Milpa agriculture, coffee, livestock, handicrafts, wage labour and migration are important. Poverty, travel distances to healthcare and education, road limitations and climate hazards can restrict participation and access to public programmes.

Historical and cultural context. The Me'phaa people maintain distinctive languages, community institutions, ritual practices and territorial knowledge in the Mountain and Costa-Montaña regions. Their territories are often characterized by steep terrain, dispersed settlements and limited infrastructure.

Mixtec people

The Mixtec people occupy a broad region extending across Oaxaca, Guerrero and Puebla. The region is commonly differentiated into the Mixteca Alta, Mixteca Baja and Mixteca de la Costa, reflecting significant ecological and cultural diversity.

Livelihoods include maize and bean production, livestock, fruit cultivation, handicrafts, wage labour, commerce and extensive national and international migration. In some areas, soil erosion, water scarcity, fragmented landholdings and limited market access create significant constraints⁸.

The project must examine how migration affects representation, consent and continuity of commitments.

Socioeconomic conditions and tensions. Soil erosion, water scarcity, small landholdings, limited formal employment and dependence on migration are significant in many areas. Absence of rights holders due to migration can affect assembly quorums and continuity of project commitments. Mining concessions and other territorial pressures must be checked at the specific community level rather than generalized to the entire people.

Historical and cultural context. Mixtec peoples have long-standing regional networks extending across Oaxaca, Guerrero and Puebla and maintain diverse linguistic variants, community institutions and agricultural knowledge. Migration has become a central element of many household economies and social relations.

Nahua people

Nahua communities constitute a substantial proportion of Guerrero's Indigenous population and are concentrated in the northern, central and Mountain regions.

Livelihoods vary by altitude and ecological zone but commonly include milpa agriculture, fruit cultivation, livestock, forest products, handicrafts, trade, temporary labour and migration. In dry-forest landscapes, water scarcity and seasonal forage availability may be important drivers of livestock management⁹.

⁸ INPI Mixtec ethnography, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/mixtecos-etnografia/>; INEGI Census 2020; CONEVAL.

⁹ INPI Nahua of Guerrero ethnography, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/nahuas-de-guerrero-etnografia/>; INEGI Census 2020; CONEVAL.

The project must differentiate between formal agrarian authority and broader Indigenous representation. Socioeconomic conditions and conflicts. Livelihoods may include milpa, fruit, livestock, forestry products, handicrafts, commerce, wage labour and migration. Water scarcity, insecurity, agrarian disputes and extractive interests are relevant in some municipalities. The project will verify actual conditions at ejido and community level.

Historical and cultural context. Nahua communities in Guerrero maintain diverse forms of communal organization, ritual life, agriculture, crafts and territorial identity. Their ecological settings range from mountain to warmer dry-forest areas, requiring localized analysis.

Afro-Mexican people

Afro-Mexican communities are particularly concentrated in the Costa Chica, where their historical livelihoods have included livestock, agriculture, fishing, coconut and fruit production, commerce and migration¹⁰.

Livestock has cultural and economic significance in parts of the region, making Afro-Mexican communities directly relevant to sustainable-livestock interventions. The project must avoid assuming that all households own cattle or have equal access to land, water, credit and technical assistance.

Afro-Mexican communities in Guerrero's Costa Chica have a distinctive historical identity and important relations with livestock, agriculture, fishing and regional trade. Socioeconomic inequalities include unequal land access, precarious employment, limited healthcare and education in dispersed localities, migration and racial discrimination. Security, agrarian conflict and coastal development pressures will be considered during preparation of the project IPP.

5. Oaxaca

Oaxaca has the greatest linguistic and cultural diversity among the states covered by the project. Indigenous territories encompass coastal, mountain, valley, dry-forest and tropical ecosystems. The project must therefore avoid treating state-level Indigenous data as representative of every eligible community.

Amuzgo people

The Amuzgo people of Oaxaca are primarily located in San Pedro Amuzgos and Santa María Ipalapa and maintain close cultural and social links with Amuzgo communities in Guerrero. Their tropical and sub-tropical environment and livelihood systems are relevant to dry-forest conservation, agriculture and livestock management¹¹.

Amuzgo communities in Oaxaca share linguistic and cultural continuities with those in Guerrero but have locally specific agrarian and municipal arrangements. The project will deepen data on weaving, agriculture, livestock, migration, services and women's participation at the community level.

Chatino people

10 INPI Afro-Mexican Catalogue, <https://catalogo.inpi.gob.mx/afromexicano/>; INEGI Afro-Mexican population publications; CONEVAL.

11 Reference sources: INPI Amuzgo ethnography; INEGI Census 2020; CONEVAL.

Chatino communities inhabit the south-western part of Oaxaca, including areas of the Coast and Sierra Sur. They speak several linguistic variants belonging to the Oto-Manguean family.¹²

Chatino territory includes lowland tropical forests and mangroves, intermediate areas with deciduous and cloud forests, and higher pine-oak forests. In lower areas, extensive livestock production and commercial fruit cultivation are relevant; intermediate areas are strongly associated with coffee; and maize, beans and vegetables are grown throughout the region for household consumption.

Temporary migration for coffee harvesting and coastal agricultural work is an important income strategy. Potential project risks include reinforcing extensive livestock expansion, failing to distinguish between lowland and highland livelihood systems, and excluding migrant households from decision-making.

Socioeconomic conditions and tensions. Remote settlements may face limited healthcare, secondary education, roads and digital connectivity. Coffee price volatility, hurricanes, landslides and land-use change affect livelihoods. Lowland livestock interventions must avoid creating incentives for further dry-forest clearing.

Historical and cultural context. Chatino communities maintain distinct linguistic variants and community institutions across the Coast and Sierra Sur. Coffee, milpa agriculture, fruit, livestock and migration vary by altitude. Sacred places, water sources and community service systems are relevant to territorial governance.

Ikoots or Huave people

The Ikoots people inhabit principally the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, particularly around coastal lagoons. Their territorial and cultural identity is closely connected to water, wind, fishing areas, salt resources, wetlands and coastal ecosystems.

Livelihoods include fishing, agriculture, livestock, salt production, trade, wage labour and handicrafts. Community dependence on lagoon systems means that terrestrial land-use interventions must consider indirect impacts on sedimentation, water quality, hydrological flows and access to fishing areas.¹³

The region has experienced tensions associated with wind-energy development, infrastructure, territorial boundaries and control of natural resources. Project engagement must be conflict-sensitive and must not assume that municipal or agrarian authorities alone represent all affected Ikoots communities.

Socioeconomic conditions and conflicts. Fishing, agriculture, livestock, salt, trade and wage labour support households, while public-service access differs among communities. The region has experienced conflicts related to wind-energy projects, infrastructure, land boundaries and decision-making legitimacy. Project activities must consider indirect watershed and water-quality effects on lagoons and fisheries.

Historical and cultural context. Ikoots identity is inseparable from lagoon, marine and wind systems in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Fishing knowledge, ritual life, language and community institutions connect terrestrial and aquatic territories.

Mixtec people

12 INPI Chatino ethnography, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/chatinos-etnografia/>; INEGI Census 2020; CONEVAL.

13 Reference sources: INPI Ikoots/Huave ethnography, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/huaves-etnografia/>; INEGI Census 2020; official environmental and human-rights sources.

Mixtec communities in Oaxaca inhabit ecologically diverse regions, including the Mixteca Baja and Mixteca de la Costa, which are particularly relevant to dry forests and livestock.

Livelihoods may combine subsistence agriculture, goat and cattle production, fruit cultivation, handicrafts, commerce, temporary labour and migration. Water scarcity, erosion and declining soil fertility are major concerns in many Mixtec areas.

Sustainable-livestock interventions may provide opportunities to improve soil cover, forage management and water retention. They must be adapted to small-scale production, communal land rules and labour availability rather than relying on capital-intensive models¹⁴.

Socioeconomic conditions and pressures. Subsistence agriculture, goats and cattle, fruit, crafts, commerce and migration are common. Water scarcity, erosion, limited health and education services and mining interests in some territories require community-specific assessment.

Historical and cultural context. Mixtec communities of Oaxaca are highly diverse and include dry and semi-dry landscapes where soil and water conservation are central. Community assemblies, migration networks and reciprocal labour remain important despite economic change.

Tacuate people

The Tacuate people are culturally differentiated although their language is commonly classified within the Mixtec linguistic grouping. They are principally located in Santa María Zacatepec in the district of Jamiltepec.

Their environment includes warm-climate vegetation characteristic of tropical landscapes. Migration, livestock and commerce constitute important sources of income, while agriculture includes maize, beans, squash, chile and fruit production. Household livestock and backyard animals are also relevant.

Traditional civil and religious offices and the mayordomía system remain important to social organization. Project schedules and consultation arrangements should take community service and ceremonial obligations into account¹⁵.

Socioeconomic conditions. Agriculture, livestock, commerce and migration are important, while access to health, upper-secondary education and formal employment may be constrained. Land-use change and unequal access to agrarian rights are relevant project considerations.

Historical and cultural context. The Tacuate people maintain a distinct identity despite their language being classified within the Mixtec grouping. Community offices, mayordomías, kinship and regional trade contribute to social continuity.

Zapotec peoples

Zapotec peoples occupy several culturally and ecologically differentiated regions, including the Central Valleys, Sierra Norte, Sierra Sur and Isthmus of Tehuantepec. It would therefore be inaccurate to characterize them as a single uniform population.

¹⁴ INPI Mixtec ethnography; INEGI Census 2020; CONEVAL.

¹⁵ INPI Tacuate ethnography, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/tacuates-etnografia/>; INEGI Census 2020; CONEVAL.

In the Central Valleys, land use includes subsistence and commercial agriculture, livestock grazing and collection of natural products. In the Isthmus and Sierra Sur, other combinations of agriculture, livestock, fishing, forestry, wage labour and migration are found¹⁶.

Socioeconomic conditions and conflicts. Agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing, handicrafts, commerce, wage labour and migration occur in different combinations. Wind-energy development, mining, infrastructure, water disputes and agrarian conflict affect some Zapotec territories. These pressures will be documented only where relevant to participating communities.

Historical and cultural context. Zapotec peoples encompass numerous regional and linguistic communities in the Central Valleys, Sierra Norte, Sierra Sur and Isthmus.

6. Yucatán and Quintana Roo

Maya people

The Maya people constitute the principal Indigenous People in Yucatán and Quintana Roo. Maya communities maintain historical and contemporary relationships with tropical forests, milpa systems, home gardens, beekeeping, water sources, cenotes, caves, medicinal plants and sacred or ceremonial places.

Maya territory is not limited to formally recognized agrarian land. It includes cultural landscapes, forest patches, water systems, family agricultural areas, collective lands, archaeological sites and places associated with community memory and spiritual practices.

The traditional milpa system commonly integrates maize, beans and squash and may be complemented by chile, fruit trees, home gardens, apiculture, hunting, gathering and small-animal husbandry. In parts of Quintana Roo, fishing and employment in tourism are also important.

Maya households increasingly combine rural production with wage labour in Mérida, Cancún, Playa del Carmen, Tulum and other urban or tourism centres. Migration and commuting can affect community participation, labour availability and the transmission of traditional knowledge.

Beekeeping and meliponiculture are especially important culturally and economically. Livestock and forest interventions must therefore avoid adverse effects on flowering vegetation, pesticide exposure, water availability and pollinator habitat.

Specific pressures include: deforestation and forest fragmentation; agricultural and livestock expansion; tourism and real-estate development; infrastructure and transport projects; water contamination and pressure on aquifers; hurricanes, drought and wildfire; loss of native bees and other pollinators; decline in intergenerational transmission of Maya language and knowledge; and unequal benefit-sharing from tourism and natural-resource use¹⁷.

16 INPI Zapotec regional ethnographies, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/>; INEGI Census 2020; CONEVAL; official conflict documentation.

17 INPI Maya ethnography, <https://atlas.inpi.gob.mx/mayas-etnografia/>; INEGI Census 2020; CONEVAL; official environmental information.

Territorial pressures and conflicts. Tourism and real-estate expansion, transport and energy infrastructure, industrial agriculture, aquifer contamination, and deforestation have affected parts of the Yucatán Peninsula. Cenotes, caves, archaeological areas and pollinator habitat require specific protection.

Socioeconomic conditions. Rural households often combine milpa, beekeeping, small livestock, forestry-related activities and home gardens with wage employment in tourism, construction and urban services. Access to healthcare, upper-secondary education, transport, internet, formal employment and social security differs substantially between interior communities and tourism corridors.

Historical and cultural context. Contemporary Maya communities are heirs to a long history of territorial organization, milpa agriculture, resistance and adaptation. Language, family networks, community festivities, traditional medicine and knowledge of forests, rainfall, soils, bees and water systems remain important, although their transmission varies by generation and locality.

3.4 .2 Characterization during preparation of the Indigenous Peoples Plan in the inception phase

During the early inception phase, and before implementation of field activities, the project will undertake a comprehensive socio-cultural and territorial characterization of the Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities located in, using, or maintaining collective attachment to project intervention areas.

The assessment will cross-reference eligible areas with INPI and INEGI information; identify communities with collective attachment or customary use of project areas; map agrarian territories and culturally significant areas; identify representative institutions and decision-making arrangements; document preferred languages and culturally appropriate communication methods; assess land tenure and natural-resource use; characterize livelihoods, gender roles and intergenerational dynamics; analyse poverty conditions and access to public services; identify migration and labour patterns; identify existing conflicts, concessions and territorial pressures; assess security risks; identify cultural heritage and traditional knowledge; establish indicators for monitoring benefits, participation and potential adverse impacts.

The findings of this assessment will be used to refine this IPPF and to prepare a project-level Indigenous Peoples Plan during the inception phase. Intervention areas, beneficiaries and activities will be more detailed at inception, thus contributing to a more accurate and refined document. The IPP will constitute the basis for addressing IPs issues throughout project implementation. The IPP will establish the measures, procedures, responsibilities, budget and monitoring arrangements required to ensure culturally appropriate participation, equitable access to project benefits, protection of collective rights, respect for traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

The IPP will be prepared in parallel with the ESMP which includes the reapplication of FAO's environmental and social risk screening checklist and the refinement of the project's environmental and social risks and management measures matrix, based on the more detailed information available at the inception stage. Based on the outcomes of this process, the Project IPP and the ESMP will establish the appropriate measures to avoid, minimize and manage potential impacts on Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population.

During implementation, should additional potential risks relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population are identified at any time through project implementation, the Project IPP, as well as the ESMP's risks and management measures matrix and the Exclusion List, will be updated. Also, meaningful and

culturally appropriate consultations will be conducted including provisions for disclosure, implementation, monitoring, and grievance redress. FPIC will be sought under the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy and applicable project requirements, as applicable.

The findings will be incorporated and reflected through updates to the Project-level IPP, ensuring that any new or emerging issues identified during implementation are appropriately addressed, rather than through the preparation of separate site-specific IPPs. However, the IPP will cover all Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities participating in or potentially affected by the project. Where necessary, it may include differentiated measures, or implementation arrangements tailored to the specific cultural, linguistic, territorial and institutional characteristics of participating peoples and communities.

The IPP will identify remaining information gaps and establish proportionate procedures to update information during implementation without imposing unnecessary data-collection burdens on communities or public institutions.

During preparation of the project-level IPP in the inception phase, selected information will be deepened at ejido and community level. This will not constitute a separate diagnostic exercise. It will be an integral part of preparing the IPP and will focus on the data necessary to define culturally appropriate participation, benefit-sharing, risk-management, grievance and monitoring arrangements.

Guidance for the development of the IPP is included in Annex 1 to this IPPF.

4. Summary of social and environmental assessments, potential risks and managements measures

4.1. Identification, assessment and management of potential risks to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population in the REDD+ readiness process

This IPPF examines gaps and potential risks and impacts relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population identified during the REDD+ readiness phase and results period between 2010-2019, in consistency with the environmental and social due-diligence assessment (Annex 4.1) of the RBP proposal. The due-diligence assessment constitutes FAO's 'diligence report describing the extent to which the activities undertaken in the past, leading to the REDD+ results for which the result-based payments are requested, have been implemented in a manner consistent with the relevant FAO and GCF policies and international instruments.

The due-diligence assessment confirmed that the efforts undertaken in the context of the REDD+ readiness phase to identify, assess and manage potential risks to Indigenous Peoples and other local communities in the context of the REDD+ readiness phase and the results period were consistent with FAO Policy on Indigenous Peoples FAO ESS 7, 8 and 9, and the GCF IP Policy, anchored in the Cancun Safeguards and consistent with Mexico's National safeguards architecture including the National Safeguards System and the Safeguards Information System.

After the application of FAO's environmental and social risk screening checklist, outstanding potential risks, gaps and co-benefit opportunities relevant to indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican populations were identified and are described in table 4.

Table 4. Environmental and social risks and benefits relevant for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican populations identified in the REDD+ preparation phase.

Theme	Negative impacts/ Risks	Positive impacts/ co-benefits
Access to information and engagement	While significant progress was achieved during REDD+ readiness and ENAREDD+ consultation processes, challenges still remain in ensuring fully inclusive, culturally appropriate and effective participation across all territories and stakeholder groups, particularly for women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples and remote rural communities. Challenges also remain in ensuring that technical information related to REDD+, safeguards and program implementation is consistently available in formats adapted to local languages, literacy levels and cultural contexts. Additional efforts are still required to strengthen the development and dissemination of culturally appropriate and accessible communication materials to facilitate that REDD+-related information effectively reaches communities through their representative structures and local governance mechanisms. Logistical, linguistic, geographic and resource-related barriers continue to create challenges for the effective inclusion and sustained participation of remote communities and vulnerable groups in REDD+ governance processes. Differences in digital connectivity and institutional outreach capacities may have limited effective access to information for stakeholders in remote forest areas. Challenges also remain in strengthening inclusive representation within formal participation and consultation platforms, particularly regarding the effective participation of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican peoples. Challenges remain in ensuring that participation and consultation processes are consistently implemented in full respect of	Existing legal and institutional frameworks on transparency and access to information provided an enabling environment for REDD+ safeguards implementation, while also supporting continuous improvement processes to address remaining accessibility and information dissemination challenges. Mexico has a robust constitutional, customary, legal and institutional framework aimed at promoting and safeguarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican peoples, including their rights to participation, consultation and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), consistent with applicable international frameworks and agreements. During the REDD+ readiness and consultation processes, the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI), now the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI), accompanied consultation processes and participation platforms involving Indigenous Peoples within REDD+ related governance and stakeholder engagement processes During the retroactive period, institutional efforts were undertaken to improve access to information through culturally relevant outreach approaches, local-level engagement processes and the dissemination of REDD+ information through different institutional and territorial platforms. During the retroactive period, efforts were undertaken to develop culturally appropriate participation approaches and outreach materials, including activities aimed at facilitating access to information and participation for Indigenous Peoples and rural communities through representative and local governance structures.

	traditional governance systems, representative institutions, customary norms	Consultation and participation processes contributed to increasing the visibility and recognition of the perspectives, rights and participation needs of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples and local communities within forest and climate governance discussions. Participatory and territorial governance processes promoted under ENAREDD+ contributed to increasing recognition of community governance systems, traditional knowledge and the role of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples, ejidos and communities in sustainable forest management and climate governance.
Grievance Mechanisms and conflict resolution processes	While Mexico has established legal and institutional grievance and conflict resolution mechanisms relevant to REDD+ implementation, challenges still remain in ensuring that these mechanisms are fully accessible, culturally appropriate and widely known among Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples, ejidos, communities and remote rural populations. Linguistic, geographic, technological and administrative barriers may continue to limit effective access to grievance and citizen attention mechanisms for some vulnerable and marginalized groups. Challenges remain in ensuring that information regarding grievance mechanisms, procedures and available channels is consistently disseminated through accessible, culturally relevant and locally appropriate formats. Challenges still remain in strengthening institutional understanding and capacities, particularly among personnel operating closest to the territorial level and directly engaging with communities, regarding the importance of timely and culturally appropriate attention to questions, concerns and grievances as a key measure for preventing escalation of conflicts and strengthening trust in REDD+ implementation processes	Mexico has established a broad legal and institutional framework supporting access to justice, citizen attention, transparency and conflict resolution processes relevant to REDD+ implementation at federal, state and local levels. Existing grievance and citizen attention mechanisms within the forestry and environmental sectors provided multiple institutional channels for receiving, processing and responding to questions, concerns and grievances associated with REDD+ implementation processes. The coexistence of legally established procedures together with more flexible institutional citizen attention channels contributed to expanding potential access pathways for stakeholders across different territorial, social and cultural contexts. Participatory and territorial governance processes promoted under ENAREDD+ contributed to creating dialogue and coordination spaces among government institutions, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples, ejidos, communities and other stakeholders, supporting conflict prevention and collaborative problem-solving approaches. Existing institutional structures at territorial level, including CONAFOR state

		offices and participatory platforms, contributed to facilitating communication and engagement between institutions and local stakeholders in REDD+ related processes.
Land access and traditional knowledge	Given Mexico's robust constitutional, legal and customary recognition of social property regimes, collective land tenure and community governance systems, no significant risks were identified in relation to impacts on land ownership, access to natural resources, territories or traditional livelihoods associated with REDD+ implementation during the retroactive period. Nevertheless, continued efforts remain important to ensure the adequate consideration and inclusion of traditional knowledge, including women's knowledge and community practices related to the use, management and conservation of natural resources within REDD+ related processes and territorial governance approaches.	Mexico's constitutional, legal and customary recognition of social property regimes, collective land tenure and community governance systems provide a strong foundation for REDD+ implementation consistent with the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples, ejidos and communities. The recognition of collective governance systems and community assemblies support REDD+ implementation approaches grounded in voluntary participation, collective decision-making and respect for territorial rights and customary governance structures. REDD+ readiness, consultation and safeguards processes contributed to strengthening recognition of traditional knowledge, community forest management practices and biocultural values associated with sustainable natural resource management. The retroactive period also contributed to identifying opportunities to further strengthen the incorporation of traditional knowledge, including women's knowledge and community resource management practices, within REDD+ related processes, safeguards implementation and territorial governance approaches.
Resettlement and displacement	REDD+ implementation and CONAFOR operational rules do not involve activities associated with physical displacement or involuntary resettlement, and explicitly prohibit support for activities that could result in forced displacement, restrictions on land tenure rights or involuntary relocation of Indigenous Peoples, ejidos, communities or local populations.	The voluntary nature of CONAFOR support mechanisms and the absence of activities involving involuntary resettlement or physical displacement contributed to consistency with community governance systems, collective decision-making processes and safeguards principles.
Gender	Women, particularly Indigenous and rural women, may continue to face additional barriers related to time availability, care	REDD+ readiness and ENAREDD+ consultation processes contributed to increasing recognition of gender equality

	responsibilities, mobility constraints, linguistic barriers and unequal access to technical information and capacity-building opportunities. Additional efforts remain important to strengthen gender-responsive participation approaches, culturally appropriate outreach mechanisms and institutional capacities to promote women's inclusion and leadership within REDD+ implementation processes. Challenges still remain in ensuring that REDD+ related processes adequately recognize and incorporate women's traditional knowledge, resource management practices and perspectives within territorial governance and climate change strategies.	considerations within forest and climate governance discussions. Participatory and safeguards processes promoted greater visibility of women's participation needs, leadership roles and contributions to sustainable forest management and territorial governance. REDD+ readiness contributed to strengthening institutional awareness and capacities regarding gender equality, inclusive participation and safeguards approaches relevant to REDD+ implementation. CONAFOR has progressively advanced the integration of affirmative actions and gender-responsive approaches within forestry sector programs and operational frameworks aimed at improving women's participation, access to support mechanisms and inclusion in forest governance and decision-making processes.
Access to benefits	Challenges still remain in ensuring that vulnerable and historically underrepresented groups, particularly women, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples and remote rural communities, can fully access and benefit from REDD+ related opportunities and support mechanisms. Challenges still remain in ensuring that women, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples and remote rural communities can fully and equitably access REDD+ related benefits, technical support and participation opportunities through culturally appropriate and gender-responsive approaches. No significant adverse impacts on tangible or intangible cultural heritage associated with REDD+ implementation were identified during the retroactive period.	Participatory and safeguards processes promoted greater recognition of the role of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples, ejidos, communities and women in forest conservation, climate action and sustainable territorial governance. Mexico's constitutional, legal and institutional frameworks, together with REDD+ safeguards processes, contributed to promoting culturally appropriate participation approaches and recognition of traditional knowledge and community governance systems relevant to sustainable forest management. Readiness process contributed to identifying opportunities for continued strengthening of inclusive participation, equitable access to benefits, climate resilience and integrated approaches linking environmental conservation, sustainable rural development and social inclusion.

4.2. Potential risks relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population and management measures in the context of this RBP

In compliance with the GCF's applicable safeguards and following FAO's Framework for Environmental and Social Management, FAO's Environmental and Social Risk Screening Checklist was applied to this RBP proposal, and risk category B or moderate risk, was assigned to the project. Accordingly, a series of environmental and social standards -ESS- have been deemed applicable, including ESS 7 Land tenure, displacement, and resettlement, ESS 8 Indigenous Peoples, and ESS9 Cultural Heritage. In line with these standards as well as the objectives and requirements of the GCF IP Policy, given that the project will be implemented in areas with the presence of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population, and that project activities may affect them, a standalone Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework is required at this stage.

Taking potential risks identified during the REDD+ readiness phase as a basis, building on the findings from previous sections, and informed by the Guiding Questions in FAO's risks checklist (particularly for ESS 7, ESS 8 and ESS9) the table below summarizes potential risks relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population related to the RBP project. These potential risks alongside their respective management measures have been integrated in the project's environmental and social risk management matrix (Annex 2 in Annex 4.2, the ESMF).

Table 5. Risks related to respect of the knowledge and rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population

Relevant FAO ESS	Risks related to respect of the knowledge and rights of forest-dependent indigenous peoples and members of communities	Management measures
Productive restoration through silvopastoral systems		
ESOP 2, ESS 6, ESS 8	Producers, women, Indigenous Peoples or smallholders may not receive timely or accessible information on eligibility, benefits and obligations.	Design and implement an inclusive and accessible outreach, socialization and call for participation strategy. Promote the participation of young producers to engage in sustainable livelihood initiatives.
ESOP 2, ESS 7, ESS 8	Eligibility criteria may be perceived as unclear or inequitable, generating tensions between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.	Publicly disclose eligibility and prioritization criteria; use participatory validation where ejidos and communities are involved.
ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 7	Silvopastoral systems may be proposed in unsuitable sites, including areas with natural habitat, tenure conflicts or high environmental sensitivity.	Apply environmental and social screening, Exclusion List and site-level verification before approval. Integrate Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and local livestock production practices and biocultural knowledge. Take into account seasonal production, climate, and community calendars.
ESOP 2, ESS 6, ESS 8	Monitoring may not capture differentiated outcomes for women, Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable producers.	Collect sex-, ethnicity- and location-disaggregated data and include safeguards findings in project reports.
Farmer Field Schools and capacity building		
ESOP 2, ESS 6, ESS 8	Women, Indigenous Peoples, youth and small producers may be excluded from Field Schools	Conduct targeted outreach and adapt communication to local languages in

	due to limited information, language barriers or social norms.	coordination with INPI/INALI, schedules and mobility constraints. Promote the participation and leadership of Indigenous youth
ESS 6, ESS 8	Capacity-building needs of women, youth and Indigenous producers may not be reflected in training design.	Conduct rapid training-needs assessments with gender, inter-generational, and intercultural criteria. Tailor technical assistance to the needs, capacities, and production systems of different beneficiary groups rather than applying standardized training packages.
ESS 8, ESS 9	Training may overlook Indigenous knowledge, local practices or culturally significant land-use systems.	Incorporate culturally appropriate facilitation and respect community protocols, calendars, and local knowledge. Recruit and strengthen Indigenous and locally based technical personnel who understand local languages, cultural practices and territorial realities.
ESS 6, ESS 8	Evaluation may measure attendance but not actual uptake of knowledge by women, Indigenous Peoples and smallholders.	Apply simple pre/post assessments and disaggregate results by sex, age and ethnicity where possible.
ESOP 2, ESS 6, ESS 8	Monitoring may not capture differentiated outcomes for women, Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable producers.	Collect sex-, ethnicity- and location-disaggregated data and include safeguards findings in project reports.
Payments for Environmental Services		
ESOP 2, ESS 6, ESS 8	Ejidos, communities, women and Indigenous Peoples may not receive accessible information on PES eligibility, obligations and benefit-sharing rules.	Design and implement an inclusive and accessible outreach, socialization and call for participation strategy. Promote the participation of young producers to engage in forest conservation and sustainable management.
ESS 7, ESS 8	Land tenure disputes or unclear collective agreements may affect PES participation.	Confirm tenure status, assembly agreements and voluntary participation before approval.
ESS 6, ESS 7	Women without formal agrarian rights may be excluded from PES decision-making and benefit-sharing discussions.	Promote inclusive assembly participation and document women's participation in PES-related decisions.
ESOP 2, ESS 6, ESS 7, ESS 8	PES eligibility requirements and benefit-sharing criteria may be perceived as unclear or inequitable, generating tensions within communities or between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.	Publicly disclose eligibility and benefit-sharing criteria; promote participatory socialization through community assemblies and representative governance structures.
ESOP 2, ESS 7, ESS 8	PES may generate intra-community tensions over benefit-sharing distribution, labor obligations or access to forest resources.	Use transparent benefit-sharing arrangements; promote participatory validation through community assemblies and representative governance structures; socialize the MAC for complaints.
ESS 8, ESS 9	PES rules may overlook Indigenous governance systems, cultural values or traditional resource management.	Respect community protocols, calendars, representative institutions and culturally appropriate decision-making.

		Integrate Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and local forest management practices and biocultural knowledge.
ESOP 2, ESS 6, ESS 8	PES monitoring may not capture who benefits within communities.	Include disaggregated social monitoring on participation, benefit access and grievances.
Gender-related risks and management measures		
ESS 6, ESS 8, ESOP 2	Women's groups, Indigenous and Afro-Mexican women, women livestock producers and women involved in restoration, nurseries, NTFPs, value chains and governance may not be identified.	Identify women's groups, Indigenous and Afro-Mexican women, women livestock producers, and women involved in restoration, nurseries, NTFPs, value chains and community governance in target states.
ESS 6, ESS 8, ESS 7	Women may not participate meaningfully in discussions on productive restoration, SSP, territorial governance, PES, financing mechanisms and value chains.	Organize consultation spaces that enable women's participation in discussions on productive restoration, silvopastoral systems, territorial governance, PES, financing mechanisms and value chains.
ESS 6, ESS 8	Gender-differentiated barriers, risks and opportunities may not be captured during consultations.	Include specific questions in consultation tools to identify gender-differentiated barriers, risks and opportunities related to restoration, SSP, financing, PES and value chains.
ESS 6, ESS 7	Women may have limited access to financing, SSP incentives or productive assets due to land tenure and eligibility barriers.	Promote gender-responsive eligibility support, targeted information and accompaniment for women producers and women in agrarian communities, including young women.
ESS 6, ESS 8	Women may be excluded from PES-related activities, benefit-sharing and community decision-making.	Promote women's participation in the design and implementation of PES, including community assemblies, benefit-sharing discussions and community arrangements.
ESS 6, ESS 7, ESS 8	Women may have limited participation in deforestation-free and sustainable value chains associated with silvopastoral systems, productive restoration, forage production, nurseries, non-timber forest products and other locally relevant economic activities, reducing their access to economic benefits generated by the project.	Promote women's participation in deforestation-free and sustainable value chains linked to silvopastoral systems, productive restoration, forage production, nurseries, non-timber forest products and locally relevant products. As part of activity design, create opportunities for young women to engage in sustainable livelihood initiatives.
ESS 6, ESS 8	Institutional actors, technical personnel and local facilitators may lack the knowledge and skills required to effectively integrate gender equality and social inclusion considerations into project implementation.	Strengthen institutional and technical capacities to mainstream gender in silvopastoral systems, productive reconversion, financing, territorial governance, PES and safeguards implementation.
ESS 6, ESS 8	Monitoring systems may fail to capture differentiated outcomes for women, limiting the project's ability to assess gender-related results and barriers.	Ensure that monitoring systems collect and report sex-disaggregated data and qualitative evidence on women's participation, access to benefits and influence in decision-making.
ESS 6, ESS 8	Lessons learned regarding women's participation and inclusion may not be systematically documented or used to improve project implementation and replication.	Document and disseminate good practices on women's participation in productive reconversion, silvopastoral systems, deforestation-free value chains, PES and territorial governance.

The proposed management measures are geared at ensuring the implementation of the ESMF and this IPPF guide the design of the project's operational and implementation instruments over the inception phase in a way that systematically ensure the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population, including to FPIC, are respected when designing and implementing on-the-ground activities – including in relation to the recognition, respect and preservation of their culture, knowledge and traditional land stewardship practices.

In turn, the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) to be refined over the inception phase will provide dedicated criteria and standardized operational procedures to guide the prioritization, design, implementation and monitoring of on-the-ground activities and dedicated indicators to be monitored and reported on as part of the project's M&E framework to guarantee rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population are respected at all times in the context of on-the-ground design and implementation.

The ESMF includes a detailed Exclusion List (Annex 3 in Annex 4.2 to the RBP) which will be applicable to all project activities, will be revised as relevant in preparation of the ESMP during project inception. The Exclusion List will also be integrated as part of the terms and conditions for on-the-ground implementation, and so will apply at eligibility and risk screening stages, guaranteeing no high-risk activities will be financed by the project at any time, throughout implementation.

The following activities relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population are included in the project's Exclusion List:

- The project will not support any activity that potentially leads to displacement or relocation from land or any restriction to the land and resources. Forced evictions are forbidden.
- Activities that may lead to the commercial use of - and/or negative impacts on genetic resources or traditional knowledge or practices.
- Activities that result in the exploitation of and access to outsiders to Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories, natural resources and knowledge.
- The project will not support any production or activities that impinge on the lands owned, or claimed under adjudication, by Indigenous Peoples, without full documented consent of such peoples.

Noting that specific interventions and priority area of intervention for the on-the-ground implementation will only be determined during the 1-year project inception phase, environmental, social and governance risks relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population will be further revised as a result of the participatory and consultative process envisioned for the project inception phase, and will ultimately inform the revised risks management matrix for the project and the IPP. In line with the project's ESMF the below is a inception-phase list of activities for IP engagement, safeguards instruments and procedures.

Project Operations

- Hire safeguards specialist and gender specialist at the central project level and recruit dedicated consultancies to undertake thematic assessments to inform safeguards instruments' development, as required.
- Outputs: Safeguards and Gender Specialists in place; thematic assessment reports; technical inputs to safeguards instruments.

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On-the-ground activities

- Together with CONAFOR, define specific geographical areas of intervention for on-the ground activities.
- Undertake a conflict potential assessment in relation to the proposed areas of intervention, as needed, and integrate recommendations in the benefit distribution arrangements and inform the Exclusion List, as relevant.
- CONAFOR prepares Operating Rules for on-the-ground activities (SPS, PES, women-led projects) including eligibility, exclusion and prioritization criteria, and defines outreach, technical-assistance and monitoring arrangements. The project provides inputs to this process.
- Finalize the design of specific on-the-ground activities (e.g., Farmer Field Schools and financial and market support model), ensuring the integration of gender equity and intercultural considerations, and aligning them with the context and specific needs of specific target areas.

Outputs: Defined intervention areas; conflict assessment report (if applicable); finalized Operating Rules; finalized design of on-the-ground activities.

Stakeholder engagement

- Implement stakeholder consultations and the proposed participation action plan (defined in the preliminary SEP), including tailored efforts with vulnerable groups and ensuring timely and culturally appropriate processes where Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population are project beneficiaries.
- Feedback and inputs gathered through consultations will inform benefit distribution arrangements and the update or development of safeguard instruments (ESMP, IPP, SEP, GAP).
- Develop the MAC Improvement Plan (strengthened GRM) and support CONAFOR with its implementation including measures to strengthen the reception, registration, referral, follow-up, resolution and reporting of project-related complaints, concerns, requests for information and feedback.

Outputs: Consultation reports and inputs; updated safeguards instruments informed by stakeholders; MAC Improvement Plan; strengthened and operational GRM.

Safeguards Instruments

- Conduct environmental and social due diligence assessment focused on the geographical area of intervention for on-the-ground activities, including a comprehensive stakeholder mapping and socio-cultural characterization of project beneficiaries and partners.
- Prepare the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the project, including the re application of FAO's risk screening checklist and the refinement of the project's risks and management measures matrix.
- Develop the Indigenous Peoples Plan for the project
- Refine the stakeholder engagement plan (SEP), including but not limited to participatory structures, and participatory and consultative processes in the context of the benefit distribution arrangements that ensure the respect of FPIC (consistent with the IPP).

- Develop an environmental awareness raising and capacity building action plan (as part of the updated SEP) at the national and subnational level and differentiated by interest groups, including dedicated efforts for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population.
- Develop a communications and outreach strategy (as part of the updated SEP), at the national and subnational level and differentiated by interest groups, including for national and local audiences, including dedicated efforts for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population.
- Refine the Gender Assessment and refine the Gender Action Plan.

Outputs: Due diligence assessment report; ESMP; IPP; updated SEP (including capacity-building and communications strategies); refined Gender Assessment and GAP.

By design, the RBP proposal is envisioned to reinvest GCF proceeds in the form of monetary and non-monetary benefits to implement on-the-ground activities to implement sustainable productive practices through silvopastoral systems, conserve tropical forests via PES mechanisms and strengthen territorial governance and technical capacities at the local level. On-the-ground activities will be determined on a case-by-case basis once a diversity of target beneficiaries voluntarily apply to dedicated calls for proposals (via CONAFOR's Operating Rules and FAO's competitive calls, as applicable) to be launched upon the entry of operation of the project.

Moreover, on-the-ground activities will be implemented in beneficiaries' forest and land *only*, following the entry into operation of the project, and no land acquisition is envisioned under the project. As part of the ESMP, a tailored risk screening checklist will be integrated as part of the eligibility and assessment procedures for on-the-ground implementation, including conformance with the project's Exclusion List, serving as tools to guide on-the-ground activities throughout their lifecycle. Should the assessment conclude there is likelihood of any high risk for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population, activities will be deemed as non-eligible.

5. Participation and consultation processes

5.1. Consultations undertaken in the REDD+ readiness process

Throughout the REDD+ readiness process, Mexico implemented a comprehensive and multi-level stakeholder engagement and consultation process that upheld the rights to participation, consultation, and access to information, particularly for Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples, women, and other vulnerable groups. These processes were grounded in the Constitution, the General Law on Sustainable Forest Development (LGDFS), and other national legislation recognizing these rights, while the REDD+ safeguards framework incorporated principles such as free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), equitable benefit-sharing, gender equity, transparency, and respect for traditional governance systems.

These commitments were embedded in the National REDD+ Strategy (ENAREDD+), particularly through Component 5 on communication and capacity building, which promotes culturally appropriate communication, training, and institutional and human capacity development, and Component 7 on social participation and transparency, which seeks to ensure transparent implementation of REDD+ actions through the responsible and inclusive participation of civil society.

To operationalize these commitments, Mexico established a multi-level stakeholder engagement architecture comprising the National Forestry Council (CONAF), the ENAREDD+ Working Group, the Technical Advisory Committee for REDD+ (CTC-REDD+), and State and Regional CTC-REDD+ platforms. These mechanisms enabled continuous dialogue, technical input, consultation, and co-design of the ENAREDD+. Between 2010 and 2016, they held more than 140 sessions involving Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples, ejidos and forest communities, women, academia, civil society organizations, the private sector, and government institutions.

Mexico also implemented extensive consultation and capacity-building activities. Thirty-two consultation workshops were conducted nationwide during the update of the Strategic Forest Program, involving 1,288 participants. The national consultation process for the ENAREDD+ included online consultations, 54 in-person forums, and thematic forums targeting women, youth, and the agriculture sector. Overall, the process reached approximately 26,360 participants across 212 localities in 23 states and involved 50 Indigenous Peoples.

Consultation with Indigenous and Afro-Mexican population

A central milestone of the REDD+ readiness process was the differentiated consultation with Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities for the development of the ENAREDD+. Implemented in coordination with the then National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples, in accordance with its consultation protocol and ILO Convention No. 169, the process recognized the specific rights, governance systems, cultural practices, languages, and decision-making procedures of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples. It applied culturally appropriate methodologies, including local languages, participatory approaches, and differentiated consultation procedures, to both disseminate information on REDD+ and the ENAREDD+ and collect proposals, concerns, and recommendations from communities whose territories, livelihoods, cultural identity, and governance systems are closely linked to forests and natural resources.

The consultation was guided by a dedicated plan for Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities that defined the territorial scope, criteria for selecting localities, methodological approach, consultation phases, operational roles, documentation requirements, and mechanisms for returning results to participating communities. The plan established an intercultural, gender-responsive, and participatory methodology, with flexibility to adapt implementation to local circumstances, community governance, and logistical conditions. Its overarching objective was to jointly develop the ENAREDD+ through the exercise of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples' rights to participation and prior consultation, ensuring the Strategy was culturally appropriate. To this end, the process created dedicated spaces for participation in the design of the Strategy, provided accessible information on the ENAREDD+, enabled communities to present proposals, concerns, and recommendations, and incorporated the perspectives of women, youth, older persons, and other community members.

The territorial scope of the consultation was defined using technical, social, and cultural criteria to identify localities with strong links to forest ecosystems. Priority was given to municipalities with high forest cover and a large Indigenous population within the Indigenous Cultural Regions of the then National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI, now INPI), using geographic information systems. Selection criteria included forest cover, Indigenous population, proximity to forest ecosystems, representativeness across physiographic provinces and Indigenous cultural regions, and ethno-linguistic diversity. The criteria were applied flexibly to ensure broader representation, including smaller localities of particular cultural or conservation importance.

Afro-Mexican communities were also included, with the territorial criteria adapted where necessary to incorporate emblematic communities located farther from forest areas while maintaining the forest-related focus of the consultation. The final process covered 23 federal entities, 152 municipalities, and 209 localities, with the participation of 50 Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples, representing a wide range of forest ecosystems, cultural contexts, governance systems, land tenure arrangements, and relationships with forests and public institutions.

The consultation process comprised six successive phases:

1. Prior agreements: CONAFOR and CDI informed community authorities about the consultation process. Invitations and REDD+ information materials were distributed. The consultation promoter was introduced. Communities formally recorded their agreement to participate and validated the proposed consultation schedule.
2. Information: Communities received accessible information about the ENAREDD+. Communication tools included summaries and informational materials, comics and videos, group discussions and community self-diagnosis exercises. These activities helped participants relate the Strategy to local forest conditions and observed environmental changes.
3. Internal deliberation: Communities reviewed and discussed the information internally. Deliberations followed each community's own decision-making processes. Government representatives were not present unless communities requested clarification.
4. Consultation: Participants developed proposals and recommendations regarding the ENAREDD+. Discussions covered all ENAREDD+ components: public policies, financing mechanisms, institutional arrangements, monitoring systems, safeguards, communication and outreach and participation and transparency. The process promoted the inclusion of women, youth, and other underrepresented groups in decision-making.
5. Systematization of results: Inputs and recommendations generated during the consultation were compiled, analyzed, and consolidated. Community perspectives were incorporated into the overall consultation outcomes.
6. Return of results: Communities received feedback on the national consultation outcomes. Authorities explained how community contributions had been incorporated and systematized. This phase reinforced transparency, accountability, and the value of feedback mechanisms for future stakeholder engagements.

Operational arrangements and culturally appropriate facilitation

The consultation with Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities relied on an operational structure designed to ensure territorial relevance and culturally appropriate engagement. CONAFOR, as Mexico's REDD+ focal point, led the process with technical, legal, and operational support from CDI and an external consulting team, while CONAFOR state offices, CDI delegations, and coordinating centers anchored implementation at the territorial level.

Each locality was supported by a consultation promoter, generally recruited from the region and, where possible, fluent in the local language, who served as the primary link with the community. Promoters facilitated communication, explained the consultation methodology, documented results, and helped build trust throughout the process. They were supported by state coordinators responsible for training, documentation, implementation oversight, and coordination across localities.

The consultation engaged a broad range of representative bodies, including community assemblies, traditional, agrarian and municipal authorities, ejidal organizations, civil society representatives, producers, teachers, and other local stakeholders, reflecting the multiple governance structures present in Indigenous, Afro-Mexican, ejidal, and agrarian communities.

Capacity building was an integral component of the process. Training was provided to CONAFOR, CDI, the consulting team, state coordinators, and consultation promoters on REDD+, the ENAREDD+, consultation methodologies, planning, documentation, communication materials, reporting, and inter-institutional coordination to ensure consistent implementation across all participating states.

To respect local governance systems and decision-making processes, the consultation was implemented with flexibility. While some communities completed each consultation phase through separate meetings, others combined phases into a single session at the community's request, allowing the process to adapt to local organizational practices, schedules, and circumstances without imposing a rigid consultation model.

The consultation process also faced operational challenges. In some cases, communities originally identified for consultation could not participate and were replaced by others with similar eligibility characteristics. Reasons included limited interest or distrust of government institutions, internal social, political, or religious dynamics, insecurity in certain localities or access routes, and weather conditions that hindered travel or meetings. These experiences highlight the need for adaptive planning, risk-sensitive logistics, and continuous attention to local social and political contexts in future stakeholder engagement processes.

Main results from the Indigenous and Afro-Mexican consultation

The Indigenous and Afro-Mexican consultation registered 12,245 participants, including 8,533 men and 3,712 women, representing 50 Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples. Participation was also documented by age group, including children, youth, adults, older persons, and participants who did not indicate their age. Participation varied across the consultation phases, with 1,778 participants in the prior agreements phase, 3,583 in the information phase, 5,057 in the consultative phase, and 1,827 in the return of results phase. The main results from the consultation are summarized in Table 6.

Table 6. Results of the consultation with Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population

Theme	Results and insights
Community Environmental Self-Diagnosis	The information phase included a community self-diagnosis of forests, during which participants reflected on changes in forest cover and related resources such as water and wildlife. The exercise revealed a widespread perception of forest loss, environmental degradation, and declining natural resources affecting local livelihoods, including reduced forest cover, lower water availability, changing rainfall patterns, longer droughts, wildlife loss, soil degradation, declining agricultural productivity, increased agrochemical use, loss of edible and medicinal plants, and changes in traditional land-use practices.

Linking REDD+ to Community Realities	The self-diagnosis connected the technical objectives of REDD+ with communities' own experiences of environmental change. Participants linked forest loss and degradation to illegal logging, agricultural and livestock expansion, fires, infrastructure projects, mining, pollution, weak environmental enforcement, soil erosion, agrochemical use, and climate variability. They also emphasized the social consequences of environmental degradation, including food insecurity, migration, loss of traditional knowledge and reduced capacity to maintain cultural practices linked to forests, water, milpa systems and sacred sites.
Core Clusters of Community Concerns	Three central clusters of concerns emerged from the Indigenous and Afro-Mexican consultation: 1. Legal recognition of rights, including community norms and knowledge systems. The first related to the need for legal frameworks that recognize the rights of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples, including their own community norms, collective decision-making mechanisms and knowledge systems for protecting forest areas. 2. Inclusive communication and participation, ensuring involvement of women, youth, older persons, and children. 3. Capacity strengthening, including training, institutional support, and community-led project implementation.
Public Policies and Legal Frameworks	The participants emphasized the need to update and adapt forest and environmental regulations so that they are flexible, responsive to community needs, respectful of community normative systems that generate community and environmental benefits. Participants called for stronger enforcement against illegal logging, pollution, unauthorized land-use change, damage caused by private or public companies, and external exploitation of natural resources. They also requested simplification of administrative procedures, clearer dissemination of program rules, alignment across federal, state, municipal and community-level instruments, and prior consultation before projects affecting their territories are implemented.
Financing Schemes and Resource Access	Communities emphasized the need for equitable resource distribution, transparency, direct access to support, timely disbursement of funds, and greater flexibility in resource use. They expressed concern that resources often concentrate among certain actors, particularly formal ejidatarios, while women, youth, older persons, children and people without formal land rights may be excluded. Communities requested that financing support conservation, reforestation, sustainable production, ecotourism, agroforestry, silvopastoral activities, fire prevention, community nurseries, soil restoration, water conservation and other locally relevant initiatives. They also proposed remuneration for community work already being carried out to protect forests and ecosystems.
Institutional arrangements and capacity development	Communities highlighted the need for continuous and culturally appropriate training. They identified the need to train community members, local technicians, women, youth, authorities and promoters in topics such as sustainable forest management, reforestation, pest and fire management, environmental monitoring, territorial management, financial administration, sustainable productive activities, use of technology, safeguards and REDD+ implementation. Communities emphasized that technical assistance should not be temporary or disconnected from local realities but should be provided by people who understand the region, speak the local language where needed, and remain engaged throughout the implementation of projects.

Strengthening Community Governance	Participants emphasized the importance of strengthening local governance and requested that ENAREDD+ implementation respect their uses and customs, territories, assemblies, traditional authorities, and decisions regarding the management of natural and forest resources. They also highlighted the need to strengthen coordination between traditional authorities and government institutions to guide collective action on deforestation and climate change. This finding is particularly relevant for the RBP, which will need to work through existing community governance structures while promoting the meaningful participation of women, youth, and other underrepresented groups.
Monitoring, Reporting, Verification and Technical Components	Communities considered forest reference levels and monitoring, reporting, and verification to be more technical and less familiar, resulting in fewer proposals. Nevertheless, they expressed interest in participating in monitoring activities and requested training to better understand these processes. They also proposed establishing community technicians, environmental guards, forest brigades, and local monitoring groups, including women, youth, older persons, and local authorities.
Community Interpretation of Safeguards	Communities interpreted safeguards in a broad, locally grounded manner, linking them to the protection of livelihoods, culture and cosmovision, water, soil, forests, wildlife, sacred sites, traditional practices, community rights, and decision-making. Proposals emphasized reforestation with native species, protection of water resources, fire prevention brigades, control of illegal logging and hunting, conservation of medicinal plants and sacred sites, recognition of traditional practices, reduced agrochemical use, and the inclusion of women, youth, children, and older persons in conservation activities.
Cultural Identity Aspects	Cultural identity and cosmovision were central to the safeguards discussion. Communities requested that ENAREDD+ implementation respect their relationship with nature, ceremonies, traditional knowledge, sacred sites, seeds, medicinal plants, agricultural practices, milpa systems, and community norms. They emphasized that forest conservation is rooted in knowledge passed down through generations and called on public institutions to recognize and learn from this knowledge rather than imposing externally driven approaches.
Communication, Participation, Transparency and Accountability	Communication, participation, and transparency generated the highest number of proposals. Communities requested clear, timely, and culturally appropriate information on REDD+, the ENAREDD+, public programs, financing, safeguards, monitoring results, and implementation progress, disseminated through locally appropriate channels such as community assemblies, workshops, schools, community radio, Indigenous-language media, printed materials, television, videos, and digital platforms. They also emphasized participatory communication, feedback on how community proposals were considered, and stronger follow-up, accountability, grievance mechanisms, and measures to prevent misinformation, corruption, clientelism, and elite capture.

Access to information and communication emerged as central elements of Mexico's REDD+ readiness process. Both the general consultation and the Indigenous and Afro-Mexican consultation demonstrated that meaningful participation requires clear, accessible, and timely information delivered through communication formats tailored to different stakeholders. While technical documents are appropriate for government institutions, academia, and specialized organizations, community engagement requires simplified materials, visual tools, dialogue-based approaches, local languages, and face-to-face interactions.

The Indigenous and Afro-Mexican consultation provides important lessons for the RBP. During the information phase, accessible communication materials—including summaries of the ENAREDD+, videos,

and comics—were complemented by group discussions and community self-diagnosis exercises that linked REDD+ concepts to local environmental, social, and cultural realities, helping to reduce information asymmetries and promote informed participation.

Communities repeatedly emphasized that information should not be disseminated only through written or digital materials. Many participants highlighted the centrality of dialogue through assemblies and community meetings, given that collective decision-making remains fundamental to local governance. However, the consultation also showed that assemblies and formal community spaces are not always equally accessible to all community members. Information on natural resources may circulate mainly among ejidatarios or formal authorities, while women, youth, people without land rights and other residents may have more limited access. Therefore, future stakeholder engagement under the RBP proposal should combine respect for community governance with complementary mechanisms that broaden access to information.

The consultation also highlighted the importance of using Indigenous languages and culturally appropriate communication formats. Local promoters, traditional authorities, elders, and other community members with knowledge of local languages and cultural practices played a key role in facilitating understanding, building trust, and supporting effective participation.

Finally, participants emphasized the importance of returning information to communities. They requested feedback on consultation results, the status of the ENAREDD+, and how their proposals had been considered. These lessons are directly relevant to this IPPF and have also informed the development of the Proposal's Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which incorporates feedback mechanisms to strengthen transparency, accountability, trust, and adaptive management throughout RBP project implementation.

5.2. Consultations and participation of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population in preparation of this RBP and throughout project implementation

Timely, meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement, participation and consultation in the design and implementation of REDD+ policies and measures, as well as equitable participation in the benefits derived from REDD+ results-based financing, are overarching principles established under the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and the Cancun Safeguards. Similarly, FAO's FESM seeks to strengthen and operationalize a human rights-based approach and other guiding principles across FAO programming, ensuring that both people and the environment are protected from potential adverse impacts while promoting stakeholders' active participation, access to information and effective channels through which concerns, expectations and interests may be expressed. Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population in particular may experience differentiated barriers to participation and access to benefits, including gender-based barriers, unequal access to land and financing, limited technical capacities, and institutional and cultural barriers.

Considering this, Mexico's RBP proposal, stakeholder engagement has not been conceived as an isolated consultation exercise linked only to the preparation of the funding proposal. Rather, it is grounded in a longer participatory trajectory developed since 2010 in the context of Mexico's REDD+ readiness process, just described in the previous section. Particularly, this IPPF builds on the results and lessons learned from the specific consultation with Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population which enabled the collective identification of risks, benefits, territorial priorities and implementation lessons. These informed

the RBP proposal design and its safeguards instruments. In this sense, the proposal is both technically informed by previous safeguards and consultation work and socially grounded in a decade-long process that placed people, territories and inter-institutional coordination at the center of REDD+ policy development.

The consultation processes undertaken during the ENAREDD+ preparation demonstrated the importance of culturally appropriate engagement, the use of representative institutions and community assemblies, the need for accessible information in appropriate formats and languages, and the importance of feedback loops and trust-building. These lessons remain fully relevant to the RBP proposal and should inform the design of the next stages of engagement, particularly where activities may affect Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples, ejidos, and agrarian communities.

Additionally, the preparation of the RBP proposal has been supported by Mexico's legal and institutional framework on participation, consultation, transparency, and environmental governance. The Constitution guarantees access to information, the right to a healthy environment, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican peoples to participation and self-determination. The forest legal framework (LGDFS) provides important safeguards and governance provisions and enables the federal government to engage in international cooperation related to forest-sector emissions reductions. Additional support is provided by national legislation on environmental protection, climate change, transparency, and Indigenous Peoples' rights, as well as Mexico's commitments under the Escazú Agreement.

Within this broader framework, stakeholder engagement for the formulation of the RBP proposal has been structured as a phased and progressively expanding process.

As a key first step, the stakeholder engagement approach for the proposal was informed by a dedicated stakeholder identification and mapping exercise. The stakeholder map identified Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population as priority and direct stakeholders which role in the RBP proposal is as core actors for territorial implementation, land-use decision-making, enablers of forest conservation, productive restoration and the adoption of silvopastoral systems. The SEP provides the following descriptions with respect to stakeholder engagement in the RBP proposal:

- Indigenous Peoples: groups that maintain their own cultural, social and territorial identities, with forms of organization and governance based on internal normative systems. They are recognized as subjects of public law under Article 2 of the Mexican Constitution. They maintain a close relationship with territory, natural resources and traditional knowledge associated with landscape management. In the proposal, they are key actors for sustainable resource management. They require culturally appropriate engagement processes, in their language and respecting their timing and decision-making structures. They may face vulnerability derived from historical exclusion and institutional barriers, making differentiated measures necessary to ensure their effective participation and equitable access to benefits.
- Afro-Mexican population: Constitutionally recognized population mainly living in coastal regions of the country, with its own cultural identity and historical conditions of marginalization. In the project context, their presence is particularly relevant in Guerrero and Oaxaca, where they participate in productive activities such as livestock production. This group may face barriers to support, institutional recognition and effective participation in decision-making processes. Differentiated inclusion strategies are therefore required to recognize their socioeconomic and cultural conditions and promote effective participation.

The main engagement and risk management considerations for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population include to ensure culturally appropriate and gender-responsive engagement, use of translators or interpreters where needed, and to ensure respect for decision-making structures. This mapping exercise, along with a detailed description of overall stakeholder engagement for the RBP proposal, is included in the standalone Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Annex 5 (section 4 and annex 1).

Stakeholder engagement for the formulation of the RBP proposal has been structured as a phased and progressively expanding process that includes four main stages outlined below. These phases represent the information and consultation phase for the RBP formulation process. The way direct beneficiaries at the territory level, including Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population, give consent to participate in activities supported under the RBP project is described below in section 5.3, and it is also reflected in the ESMF, and SEP.

Phases of stakeholder engagement for the RBP proposal:

- 1) Federal technical and institutional validation with key institutions (SEMARNAT, CONAFOR, SADER, SHCP and FAO);
- 2) Presentation to the national GT-REDD+ of the CICC, supported by Article 138 Bis of the LGDFS as the legal basis for inter-institutional climate coordination;
- 3) Engagement with State-level actors through state and sectoral platforms, including State Forestry Councils, CONAFOR's state offices, state environment secretariats, state rural development secretariats, and other territorial mechanisms; and
- 4) Territorial consultations with ejidos and communities, livestock producers, Indigenous Peoples, women producers, livestock associations, civil society, academia and other relevant actors.

Regarding phase 3, the consultation process draws on existing formal participation and coordination platforms, particularly State Forestry Councils, as institutional spaces for dialogue, feedback, and validation with stakeholders at the state level. These forums, legally established by the LGDFS, strengthen coordination with state authorities, community representatives, civil society organizations, academia, and other actors, ensuring that their inputs are incorporated into the design of safeguards measures and implementation arrangements.

Territorial consultations

The consultation phase for the project was operationalized through a territorial process of dialogue and participation involving key stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and communities, ejidos, agrarian communities, women, youth, producer groups, community authorities, public institutions, and other relevant actors. The overall process was guided by inclusive and differentiated participation, inter-institutional coordination, an integrated landscape management approach, territorial and cultural relevance, transparency and access to information, and the strengthening of environmental and social safeguards.

At territorial level, phase four included consultation workshops in territories associated with the proposal, which allowed for the presentation of objectives, components, and eligible activities, as well as the participatory identification of risks, benefits, mitigation measures, participation mechanisms, and grievance redress channels. These workshops aimed to foster open dialogue with local stakeholders and create space for sharing feedback, concerns, and recommendations that will strengthen the proposal's design, implementation, and contribution to the sustainable development of forest areas. To ensure inclusive and effective participation, a set of affirmative actions and adaptive measures were implemented:

- Stakeholder identification and barrier analysis: Key territorial representatives and community leaders—including Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples, women, youth and older persons—were engaged to support outreach and convening. Potential barriers to participation were identified and addressed, such as mobility constraints in dispersed communities, language barriers, restrictive social norms, and scheduling conflicts related to agricultural, family, or community activities.
- Measures to promote inclusive participation: Accessible venues with adequate transportation options will be selected, and where resources allow, support for travel, accommodation and meals may be provided. Facilitation will promote the participation of priority groups by encouraging inclusive dialogue (e.g. “all voices matter”), ensuring direct opportunities to contribute, and using contextual examples that foster empowerment and engagement.
- Accessible communication and inclusion measures: Communication will be adapted to local contexts using clear, non-technical language, locally relevant examples, and, where possible, Indigenous languages with interpretation support. Visual, audio, and participatory materials will be used to enhance understanding.

Between July 10 and 23, territorial consultation workshops were conducted across the project participating states. These workshops brought together a diverse range of stakeholders that provided an opportunity to capture perspectives from actors directly involved in forest conservation, livestock production, territorial development, and community governance processes in the different participating states. The workshops were designed as a participatory process that combined information-sharing, dialogue, and collective analysis using simple and visual presentation materials. The methodology and materials used are included in Annex 5 of the SEP

Summary of participation in territorial workshops conducted and documented so far:

- Chiapas. The territorial consultation workshop held in Chiapas on 10 July brought together 61 participants, including 44 men and 17 women. Participation included five Indigenous Peoples representatives (3 men and 2 women) from the Tseltal and Zoque Peoples. The workshop also included five young participants (39 years old or younger), comprising 2 men and 3 women.
- Michoacán. The workshop conducted in Michoacán on 15 July engaged 70 participants, of whom 47 were men and 23 were women. A total of three Indigenous participants (2 men and 1 woman) attended, representing the Pirinda and Nahua Peoples. Youth participation reached 10 participants, including 7 men and 3 women.
- Jalisco. The consultation workshop in Jalisco, held on 16 July, convened 60 participants, including 38 men and 22 women. Indigenous participation totaled fourteen representatives (6 men and 8 women) from the Tepehuano, Wixarika, and Nahua Peoples. The workshop also included nine young participants, composed of 7 men and 2 women.
- Quintana Roo. The workshop held in Quintana Roo on 16 July brought together 57 participants, including 39 men and 18 women. Indigenous participation was particularly strong, with 24 Indigenous participants (16 men and 8 women) representing the Maya, Chol, Chontal, Purépecha, and Totonaco Peoples. The consultation also included two young participants, one man and one woman.

- Oaxaca. The territorial consultation workshop carried out in Oaxaca on 22 July engaged 45 participants, comprising 31 men and 14 women. A total of 28 Indigenous participants (20 men and 8 women) attended, representing the Mixteco, Tacuate, Zapoteco, Chontal, Huave, Afro-Mexican, Chatino, and Zoque Peoples. In addition, three young participants took part in the workshop, including 1 man and 2 women.
- Yucatan. The territorial consultation workshop carried out in Yucatán on 24 July 2026 engaged 44 participants, comprising 28 men and 16 women. A total of 40 Indigenous participants attended the workshop, including 25 men and 15 women, all belonging to the Maya People. In addition, one young participant took part in the workshop, a young Indigenous woman.

All stakeholder inputs collected through the territorial consultation workshops were documented and analyzed. A detailed analysis of stakeholder recommendations for the design of the RBP proposal, including the participatory identification of potential environmental and social risks, opportunities, and proposed mitigation measures are included in the SEP (Annex 4). The specific findings and considerations that are relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population are included in Annex 2. These recommendations informed the definition of measures proposed by the project to manage potential social and environmental risks as reflected in Table 5 in the previous section, and consistently in the relevant section of the projects' ESMF.

In summary, the territorial consultation process confirmed the relevance of several key elements already incorporated into the design of Mexico's RBP proposal regarding the participation and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population. Participants emphasized the importance of ensuring that project opportunities, calls for proposals, eligibility requirements, participation timelines, and available support mechanisms are disseminated sufficiently in advance and through multiple communication channels adapted to local realities, including community-based and Indigenous communication networks where available.

Stakeholders also highlighted the need for culturally appropriate communication and engagement processes, including the use of Indigenous languages, interpreters, and locally based facilitators to facilitate informed participation. The consultations further validated the importance of adopting an intersectional gender approach that recognizes the differentiated barriers faced by Indigenous women, young women, older women, and women in vulnerable situations, and of ensuring that gender-responsive measures are adapted to local cultural and territorial contexts.

Participants stressed the importance of respecting Indigenous governance systems, customary authorities, collective decision-making processes, and community protocols throughout project implementation, as well as ensuring that benefits are delivered in ways that are consistent with collective rights and community governance arrangements. In addition, stakeholders highlighted the need to monitor the equitable distribution of project benefits among different groups and territories to ensure that no communities are left behind.

The consultation process also generated a number of recommendations that have informed the refinement of the project design and the definition of measures to address potential social risks. Participants emphasized the importance of integrating Indigenous traditional knowledge, biocultural heritage, local forest management practices, and locally adapted livestock production systems into project interventions.

They recommended that implementation schedules take into account seasonal production cycles, climatic conditions, and community calendars to facilitate participation and avoid conflicts with local livelihood activities. Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of recruiting and strengthening Indigenous and

locally based technical personnel who understand local languages, cultural practices, and territorial realities.

Additional recommendations included promoting the leadership and participation of Indigenous youth and young producers, with particular attention to young and Indigenous women, and ensuring that technical assistance is adapted to the needs, capacities, and production systems of different beneficiary groups rather than relying on standardized approaches.

Finally, participants recommended the adoption of differentiated implementation measures to ensure that women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, older persons, and other priority groups are able to participate equitably and access project benefits according to their specific needs and circumstances. Together, these recommendations have strengthened the project's social inclusion approach and informed the design of capacity-building, technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and benefit-sharing arrangements.

Considerations for engagement with Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population

For Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population, the proposed model of project implementation has important implications. On the one hand, the emphasis on collective decisions for conservation and PES is compatible with community governance systems and collective territorial management. On the other hand, the inclusion of individual productive support requires careful communication and design, so that communities clearly understand eligibility rules, voluntary participation, benefit-sharing arrangements and safeguards. Given this, it will be important to ensure that engagement processes with Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples do not rely solely on formal leadership structures where these may limit the meaningful participation of women, youth or other groups within communities.

The territorial consultation process conducted during project preparation helped validate key elements of the proposed stakeholder engagement approach and generated valuable recommendations to strengthen engagement with Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples. Overall, the consultations confirmed the importance of culturally appropriate communication, inclusive participation mechanisms, respect for local governance systems, and tailored technical assistance approaches that respond to local needs and realities.

Meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities should be grounded in respect for their governance systems, customary authorities, collective decision-making processes, and community protocols. At the same time, engagement processes should be designed to ensure that women, youth, older persons, and other potentially underrepresented groups can participate effectively in project-related discussions and decision-making. Particular attention should be given to the differentiated barriers faced by Indigenous women and youth, applying an intersectional approach that recognizes the diversity of needs, priorities, and capacities within communities.

Given the cultural and linguistic diversity present across the project states, information disclosure, consultation, and capacity-development activities should be implemented through culturally appropriate communication strategies. This includes disseminating information on project opportunities, calls for proposals, eligibility requirements, participation timelines, and available support sufficiently in advance and through communication channels that are accessible and relevant to local contexts. Where needed, engagement activities should incorporate local facilitators, interpreters, Indigenous-language materials, and communication formats adapted to the needs of participating communities. Technical assistance and

capacity-building activities should also be designed to respond to the realities of different Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples rather applying standardized approaches.

All of these considerations have been included in Table 7 below and will guide engagement with Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population onwards.

The engagement approach also recognizes that institutions and organizations such as INPI, CONANP, civil society organizations, academia, territorial organizations, livestock associations, Field Schools and inter-municipal boards can all play important roles in supporting culturally appropriate outreach, territorial coordination and differentiated technical assistance. This will be especially important in states and territories with strong Indigenous and Afro-Mexican presence, complex governance arrangements or overlapping socio-environmental pressures.

Accordingly, prior to project implementation, stakeholder engagements should ensure meaningful, culturally appropriate and territorially relevant participation of Indigenous Peoples and other local communities, including using existing representative spaces, targeted information disclosure, and appropriate facilitation.

Table 7. Considerations for engagement with Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples and local communities

Consideration	Relevance for the RBP proposal	Engagement response
Collective land tenure and community governance	Activities may involve ejidos, agrarian communities and collectively managed territories	Engage assemblies, agrarian authorities, customary authorities, and other representative institutions, while creating complementary spaces for broader participation of women, youth and other community members.
Cultural and linguistic diversity	Information may not be accessible if provided only in technical Spanish	Use culturally appropriate materials, local languages where needed, local interpreters and facilitators and technical personnel, and accessible formats
Indigenous and Afro-Mexican rights	Activities may affect territories, livelihoods, governance or cultural practices	Ensure that project benefits are delivered in ways that respect collective rights, customary institutions, and community governance arrangements within Indigenous territories. Ensure respect for FPIC where applicable
Inclusion of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican women, youth and people without formal land rights	Formal governance spaces may not fully include all affected or interested actors	Provide targeted engagement spaces and differentiated outreach strengthen women's and youth leadership and support intergenerational knowledge transmission
Trust and feedback	Previous consultation experiences may generate expectations for concrete follow-up	Document comments, report back on how inputs are considered, and provide accessible grievance channels
Effective engagement and ownership	Multiple initiatives in the territories lead to confusion among potential beneficiaries	Communicate project's objectives, activities and benefits through targeted outreach and consultations Integrate Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge, local management practices and

		biocultural knowledge into project design, technical assistance, and implementation. Recruit and strengthen Indigenous and locally based technical personnel who understand local languages, cultural practices and territorial realities, where feasible.
Availability of culturally appropriate technical assistance	External technical personnel may lack knowledge of local languages, governance arrangements and environmental and productive conditions	Where possible, recruit and strengthen Indigenous and locally based technical personnel and provide cultural-competency training to all technical teams

In addition to the consultations conducted during the preparation of the RBP proposal, further stakeholder engagement activities will be undertaken during the one-year inception phase as part of the development and updating of key project instruments, including the IPP, ESMP, SEP, and GAAP. This phase will also provide an opportunity to further refine the intervention areas and define the technical and operational details required prior to the commencement of on-the-ground implementation. As outlined in the SEP, particular attention will be given to ensuring that any activities that may affect Indigenous Peoples or Afro-Mexican peoples are addressed through culturally appropriate engagement processes, conducted through their representative institutions, using accessible formats and languages, and consistent with the requirements and measures set out in the IPP.

Additionally, according to the SEP, the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples (INPI) will be a key stakeholder during the project inception phase when the identification of specific target Indigenous and Afro-Mexican groups has been finalized and, where relevant, throughout implementation. As the federal institution responsible for safeguarding Indigenous Peoples' and Afro-Mexican population's rights and promoting culturally appropriate participation, INPI will provide strategic guidance on engagement processes, where applicable. This will be reflected into the project's IPP and revised SEP. INPI's involvement is expected to support compliance with national frameworks and good practices for Indigenous Peoples' participation.

The detailed approach (including timing, scope, modalities) on the territorial consultations to be carried during the inception phase with Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican population and other local stakeholders will be further defined once there is more definition on specific implementation areas and sub-activities. However, the project currently anticipates the implementation of the proposed SEP, including tailored efforts with Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples ensuring timely and culturally appropriate processes. Key considerations for consultations include:

- held meetings as close as possible to participating communities, prioritizing accessible territorial locations rather than state capitals;
- provide interpretation services and culturally appropriate communication materials where needed;
- conduct participatory assessments of women-led productive opportunities and barriers faced by women (particularly indigenous women);
- conduct participatory identification of appropriate locations for farmer field schools and demonstration sites to maximize accessibility for Indigenous communities;
- Map existing local capacities, experiences, and lessons learned related to territorial implementation (e.g., field schools);

- identify community and indigenous leaders who can support implementation and whose capacity-development needs can inform the project's strategy for delivering technical local support.

5.3. Free, prior and informed consent throughout on-the-ground implementation of the REDD+ proceeds

Mexico's legal framework guarantees the right of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population to participate in culturally and linguistically appropriate consultation processes. The national legal framework also recognizes Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination, autonomy, their own governance systems and internal decision-making processes. For ejidos and agrarian communities, the Agrarian Law recognizes the Assembly as the highest decision-making authority; consequently, decisions regarding participation in programs or projects are adopted through the community's own decision-making procedures and documented through assembly minutes or equivalent formal records.

The project distinguishes between meaningful consultation and consent to participate in project activities, which applies throughout project preparation and implementation, and the process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), which is required only under specific circumstances, in consistency with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy. Under the GCF IP Policy, FPIC is required where GCF-financed activities may: (i) affect Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories or natural resources subject to traditional ownership or customary use; (ii) involve relocation or restrictions on access to lands or natural resources; or (iii) result in significant impacts on Indigenous Peoples' cultural heritage or the commercial use of such heritage.

The activities financed under the project are not expected to trigger these circumstances. The project will finance voluntary, community-driven activities implemented through CONAFOR's existing subsidy programs, as described below. Accordingly, the project is expected to proceed through meaningful consultation and consent to voluntary participation rather than through an FPIC process. Nevertheless, consistent with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy, all project activities will be periodically assessed during inception and implementation. Should any proposed activity be identified as falling within the circumstances requiring FPIC under the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy, the corresponding FPIC process will be undertaken before the activity is approved or implemented, following Indigenous Peoples' own representative institutions and customary decision-making processes and in accordance with applicable Mexican legislation and the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy.

In the context of the project, activities to be implemented directly in territories inhabited by Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities will be carried out through CONAFOR's subsidy programs. Consent to participate in activities supported under the RBP project will be formalized through public, voluntary, and transparent mechanisms for accessing program support, including the issuance of public calls for applications for Payment for Environmental Services (PES), productive restoration through silvopastoral systems, and productive projects targeted to women. These calls will define eligibility criteria, participation requirements, implementation conditions, rights and obligations of beneficiaries, applicable mitigation measures, affirmative actions, and monitoring mechanisms.

Calls for proposals will include eligibility requirements and prioritization criteria, to be defined during the project inception phase, to promote the participation of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexicans, women and youth, as priority groups.

Participation in CONAFOR's programs is entirely voluntary, is initiated by Indigenous Peoples and communities through public calls for proposals, and it is formalized through their own collective decision-making procedures. Where support is requested by Indigenous ejidos or communities, the decision to participate must be agreed through the relevant assembly or representative governance body, in full respect of their highest decision-making authority in accordance with the Agrarian Law. It will then be documented through assembly minutes, community agreements or equivalent formal records.

Such collective decisions are then reflected in the formal support applications submitted by the legally recognized representatives of the ejido or community, in compliance with the agreements adopted by the assembly. Once support is approved, the commitments are further formalized through the corresponding legal or administrative instruments, including "concertation agreements", as applicable. These agreements are legal instruments used to establish rights and obligations between CONAFOR and the beneficiary, and to formalize the financial support granted and the activities to be implemented. These represent the official procedures through which consent is given by indigenous peoples and local communities to implementation of project activities.

Overall, this process ensures that participation is voluntary and informed, and grounded in legally recognized community decision-making mechanisms, fully respecting the autonomy, internal organization, and customary governance structures of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population.

In the specific case of PES, support requires the implementation of improved management practices. For this purpose, each beneficiary community must prepare a Guide for Best Management Practices (GMPM), a technical document used to plan the mandatory and eligible activities to be carried out in the areas incorporated into the PES scheme. The GMPM is oriented toward active conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems and their biodiversity, while promoting actions in favor of vulnerable groups, including Indigenous Peoples, youth and women.

The GMPM must be prepared through a participatory planning process and submitted to CONAFOR within no more than 45 calendar days from the day following the signing of the collaboration agreement. The technical assistance payment is intended to support the preparation of the GMPM, technical accompaniment during the implementation of programed activities, preparation of annual activity reports, and annual capacity-building and follow-up workshops.

Activities included in the GMPM must be identified through a participatory planning process based on local risks and threats, be technically feasible, consistent with the characteristics of the property, contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems and ecosystem services, and comply with applicable environmental legislation. Mandatory activities include forest conservation and surveillance, fire prevention brigades endorsed by the community assembly, participatory planning and capacity-building workshops, submission of the GMPM with evidence of community approval, and annual technical and financial reporting.

Additional conservation, restoration, and sustainable productive activities may be incorporated according to community priorities identified through the participatory process. The applicable Terms of Reference also establish a list of excluded activities—including mining, unauthorized infrastructure or water diversion works, waste disposal, and the introduction of invasive species—to ensure that project resources are used exclusively for conservation and sustainable forest management while preventing adverse environmental and social impacts.

5.4 Dedicated capacity building efforts for Indigenous Peoples

As established in the ENAREDD+, one of its objectives is to promote communication, training, and the strengthening of human and institutional capacities through culturally appropriate approaches for Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples, and local communities. These efforts are intended to foster collaboration in integrated territorial management and contribute to the achievement of REDD+ objectives and safeguards. In this context, the capacity-building approach of the proposed RBP is fully aligned with the broader REDD+ capacity development framework implemented in Mexico.

In addition, the proposed RBP builds on CONAFOR's existing institutional and operational model, which already incorporates capacity development as a core component of forest sector interventions. The National Forestry Programme (PRONAFOR 2026–2030), which largely guides CONAFOR's operations, includes specific actions to promote capacity development and technical assistance (Strategies 1.1 and 5.4) over the coming years. Several of these actions are particularly relevant for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities, including:

- (i) strengthening the capacities of forest service providers to respond to the technical assistance needs of communities, ejidos, Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples, and forest producers through gender-responsive and inclusive approaches;
- (ii) promoting the specialization of technical service providers to better address the needs of these groups;
- (iii) strengthening the forest services and technical assistance model through monitoring, evaluation, and continuous training that incorporates traditional knowledge, community governance, and gender perspectives; and
- (iv) disseminating technical, scientific, and traditional knowledge through open-access platforms and knowledge exchange among communities, universities, and other key stakeholders.

Similarly, the Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy for the Forest Sector identifies Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican populations as priority groups that face greater barriers to the full exercise of their rights and therefore require differentiated attention from the State. The Strategy includes a dedicated Capacity Development Component aimed at strengthening the knowledge, skills, and capacities of women and other priority populations to support their well-being and promote their active participation in forest development processes. Under this Strategy, CONAFOR implements a range of actions that are particularly relevant for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities, including:

- Disseminate information on operating rules, programmes, procedures, and calls for proposals through accessible, inclusive, and culturally appropriate communication channels, ensuring the participation of vulnerable groups and the use of locally appropriate outreach mechanisms (e.g. community radio stations, health centres, ejido announcements, and spaces frequently used by women).
- Promote the participation of women as CONAFOR-recognized technical advisors, with a particular focus on rural, Indigenous, and Afro-Mexican women, through targeted training, recruitment, and certification processes within the forestry sector.
- Implement a gender-responsive support model to assist women's groups throughout the preparation and implementation of forest projects, facilitating access to financing, infrastructure, technology, mentoring, and technical assistance. This includes strengthening the capacities of CONAFOR operational staff, particularly within State Representation Offices, and reinforcing the role of Social Liaison focal points to support and coordinate the implementation of the model.

Finally, the project includes an institutional strengthening component that will support continuous capacity-building efforts for federal and state institutions throughout project implementation, beginning during the inception phase. Training activities will cover safeguards-related topics such as human rights, culturally appropriate engagement, gender-responsive approaches, prevention of discrimination, prevention of GBV/SEA/SH, conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding, transparency, grievance redress mechanisms, and accountability, as outlined in the SEP and ESMF.

At the territory level, through the RBP project, dedicated capacity-building efforts will also be developed for ejidos and communities, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples, women producers, women's groups and small-scale livestock producers. The proposed model considers two main mechanisms to achieve this: strengthen capacities through Farmer Field Schools and reinforce territorial governance mechanisms through Territorial Agents.

In addition to the technical assistance and support services already provided by CONAFOR through its subsidy programs, the project will promote the establishment of Farmer Field Schools (ECAs) as a key mechanism for delivering technical assistance for the adoption of silvopastoral systems and regenerative practices. ECAs will constitute the core platform for providing territorial extension services and building the capacities of stakeholders interested in developing silvopastoral systems, including ejidos and communities, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples, women producers, women's groups, and small-scale livestock producers.

ECAs will function as integrated platforms for technology transfer, training, and on-site technical support. The model will combine three complementary levels of intervention: (i) participatory knowledge transfer through field-based learning; (ii) continuous technical assistance provided by extension agents; and (iii) strengthening of organizational and business management capacities.

Through training and ongoing technical support, producers will enhance their knowledge and skills in areas such as water conservation and management, forage production, grazing management, soil conservation, and other sustainable livestock practices. At the same time, ECAs will support the development of basic organizational and management capacities, including record-keeping. Strengthening these capacities will help producers progressively improve the management of their production systems and facilitate the long-term adoption and maintenance of sustainable practices.

The specific design of the ECA model will be developed during the project inception phase, building on existing efforts and experiences of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), CONAFOR, and previous ECA and REDD+ initiatives implemented in Mexico.

Another key coordination mechanism of the proposal is the engagement of Territorial Agents which are local public institutions or civil society organizations that directly support ejidos, communities, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican population, and small landowners in implementing activities on the ground. Operating at the landscape scale, these actors have a strong understanding of local dynamics, ongoing initiatives across sectors, and the diverse stakeholders involved in territorial development. Their proximity to local actors positions them to facilitate dialogue, align interventions, and promote more coordinated implementation of RBP reinvestment activities.

Territorial Agents support territorial planning, facilitate collaboration among government institutions, and contribute to the coordination of public policies at regional and local levels. Operating at federal, state, municipal, or intermunicipal scales, they play an important role in promoting the sustainable management of natural resources while helping connect local priorities with broader development objectives.

For Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican peoples, all awareness raising and capacity-building activities will be culturally appropriate, and where needed will use local languages, interpreters, local facilitators and formats adapted to community contexts. For women and women's groups, activities will be designed to address structural participation barriers, including time constraints related to care responsibilities, limited access to technical information, reduced representation in formal decision-making spaces and unequal access to financing or productive support.

6. Grievance redress mechanism

As established in FAO's FESM, FAO is committed to ensuring that stakeholders involved in or affected by FAO-supported activities are able to express their opinions, whether positive or negative, and to raise concerns, complaints or grievances through fair, transparent, inclusive, accessible and no-cost processes and mechanisms. Accordingly, the existence of an accessible and trusted grievance redress mechanism is a central element of stakeholder engagement, information disclosure, conflict resolution and accountability under FAO's ESOP 2, and is directly relevant to Mexico's RBP proposal. Grievance, complaint, and claims redress mechanisms play an important role in ensuring respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population and promoting their effective participation throughout project implementation.

Mexico has a legal and institutional framework that recognizes access to information, transparency, accountability, administrative complaints and citizen participation as key elements of public governance. Mexico's Constitution recognizes the right of access to information and establishes the basis for public accountability. The General Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information provides the framework for requesting, receiving and accessing public information. The legal framework on administrative responsibilities and anti-corruption establishes procedures for filing complaints related to acts or omissions that may constitute administrative offences by public servants or related private actors. In addition, the environmental and forestry legal framework recognizes the importance of public participation, access to environmental information and institutional channels for addressing concerns related to environmental governance.

Anchored in this legal framework, within the forest sector CONAFOR operates the Citizen Attention Mechanism (MAC) established in 2017 as the principal institutional grievance redress mechanism for forestry and REDD+ related activities. The MAC consolidates procedures for receiving, processing, and responding to complaints, requests, grievances, suggestions, and information inquiries related to forest programs and public services. The MAC is not a single-channel mechanism, but rather an institutional arrangement that connects different access points and responsible areas depending on the nature of the complain or request submitted. It is guided by six operational principles aligned with international safeguards standards and FAO ESOP2 requirements: accessibility, cultural appropriateness, timeliness and effectiveness, equity, transparency, and feedback.

The MAC operates through three institutional channels depending on the nature of the grievance:

- The Citizen Information and Attention Service (SIAC), provides attention and responses to the public by addressing inquiries and offering general information on CONAFOR's programs and activities (e.g. calls for proposals, competitions, conferences, exhibitions, among others). It receives

petitions, requests, complaints, and suggestions related to the institution's activities and, when necessary, refers them to the relevant competent units for appropriate follow-up. Access channels: Telephone, email, social media, in-person attention.

- The Transparency Unit (UT), serves as the liaison with 'Transparency for the people' institution and facilitates access to public government information, as well as protected personal data held by entities of the Federal Public Administration. The UT acts as the interface between CONAFOR and the requesting party, carrying out the necessary internal procedures to facilitate access to information. Access channels: Email, telephone, National Transparency Platform, state offices.
- The Internal Control Body (OIC), under the Secretariat of Anti-Corruption and Good Governance, receives complaints and reports regarding potential non-compliance with the obligations of public servants, including complaints related to misconduct, and is responsible for their follow-up. Access channels: Telephone, email, in-person offices, SÍDEC platform.

Each of the channels comprising the MAC operate under clearly defined procedures, stages and response timelines, depending on the nature of the request, complaint, or inquiry. These procedures establish requirements for submission, registration, follow-up and resolution of cases, as well as indicative timeframes for institutional response. Since its establishment, the MAC has provided operational channels for stakeholders to submit complaints, request information and raise concerns related to forestry programs and related activities. Furthermore, CONAFOR's Operating Rules incorporate provisions related to the processing of information requests, complaints and grievances, thereby reinforcing the operationalization of grievance redress within forest program implementation.

As confirmed by the project's SEP (section 6), CONAFOR's MAC is an appropriate mechanism and is broadly aligned with FAO's grievance redress requirements under the FESM and the relevant provisions of the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) on retaliation. As such, the MAC provides an existing institutional platform that can serve as the main entry point for beneficiaries for RBP-related requests, feedback, claims, complaints, and information requests.

In this sense, for the RBP proposal, no new grievance mechanism will be created. The project will mainly rely on CONAFOR's existing MAC and will support the improvement of such mechanism as described further below. Complimentary, and particularly for activities executed by FAO, grievances will be directly managed through FAO's GRM channels and will be handled impartially and promptly, consistent with FAO's broader commitment to accountability and stakeholder protection. Additionally, the GCF's IRM will also be available to project stakeholders at all times.

Table 8. Summary of GRM channels for the RBP project

Institutional mechanism	Access Channels
Internal Control Body (OIC)	CONAFOR: Tel: +52 (33) 3777 7021 Email: quejas@conafor.gob.mx In person: Zapopan, Jalisco Secretariat of Anti-Corruption: SÍDEC: https://sidec.buengobierno.gob.mx Tel: 01 800 1128 700 / +52 (55) 2000 2000
Transparency Unit	CONAFOR: Email: unidadtransparencia@conafor.gob.mx Tel: +52 (33) 3777 7000 Ext. 1246-1247 In person: Zapopan, Jalisco, and through

	CONAFOR's 32 State Offices nationwide. Platform: https://www.plataformadetransparencia.org.mx
The Citizen Information and Attention Service (SIAC)	CONAFOR: Tel: +52 (33) 3777 7000 Ext. 1157 / 01 800 649 0127 Email: atencionciudadana@conafor.gob.mx In person: Zapopan, Jalisco, and through CONAFOR's 32 State Offices nationwide. Social media: X and Facebook
FAO's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)	FAO Headquarters: E-mail: Investigations-hotline@fao.org Confidential OIG Hotline: (+39) 06 57052333 FAO's Mexico: phone (5549553549 ext. 313) email (FAOMX-Quejas@fao.org)
GCF Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM)	Email: irm@gcfund.org Phone numbers: Office telephone: +82 32-458-6186 Fax: +82 32-458- 6096 Cellphone: +82 10-4296-1337

During the inception phase, as part of the update of the SEP and the development of the ESMP, a Conflicts, Feedback and Grievance Management Plan (CFGMP) will be prepared to define project-specific operating procedures to ensure that the MAC can receive, register, classify, refer, respond to, monitor and report grievances, concerns and feedback related to the RBP project.

RBP project activities will be implemented in territories where Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican peoples have collective rights, representative institutions, cultural identities, languages and decision-making procedures that must be respected. In that sense, in accordance with the SEP, any grievance involving Indigenous Peoples or Afro-Mexican population must be handled with due attention to cultural appropriateness, respect for representative institutions, accessibility of information, language needs and the voluntary nature of participation.

Moreover, the preparation of the project's IPP during the inception phase will also inform the definition of the CFGMP ensuring the inclusion of the necessary procedures for culturally appropriate engagement and FPIC, where applicable. The Project-specific operating procedures will ensure that concerns and submissions are properly documented, responded to, monitored, and reviewed by the PMU (safeguards specialist) in close coordination with the appropriate institutional area within CONAFOR. Project activities giving rise to such concerns should not proceed until the relevant issue has been assessed and addressed in accordance with the procedures to be defined in the IPP and the updated SEP.

Areas of improvement of the MAC

Although no evidence of systemic failures in grievance handling was identified during the REDD+ results period, the project's due diligence assessment and the SEP highlighted opportunities for strengthening the mechanism at the territorial level, particularly regarding outreach, accessibility for Indigenous peoples and rural women, multilingual communication, and culturally appropriate procedures. During the inception phase, the project will prioritize the following actions to ensure that CONAFOR's MAC is strengthened and operational for the RBP proposal before on-the-ground implementation begins:

Table 9. Inception phase priorities for strengthening CONAFOR's MAC for the RBP proposal

Priority action	Description
Prepare the Conflicts, Feedback and Grievance Management Plan for the MAC	Define project-specific operating procedures for the use and strengthening of CONAFOR's MAC in the context of the RBP proposal
Strengthen the MAC for project purposes	Adapt CONAFOR's MAC to receive and track RBP-related grievances, including territorial and safeguards-related concerns
Define confidential procedures for sensitive complaints	Establish protocols for GBV, SEA/SH, discrimination and other sensitive complaints through the MAC
Develop accessible communication materials	Prepare materials explaining MAC channels, response times, confidentiality and rights
Adapt MAC access channels for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican peoples	Define culturally appropriate and language-accessible channels, consistent with the IPP to be prepared during inception
Train project personnel and partners	Train staff and partners on MAC procedures, confidentiality, non-retaliation, data protection and referral pathways
Establish monitoring and reporting system	Define MAC database, indicators, reporting frequency and data protection procedures

7. Monitoring, reporting, evaluation of this planning framework

The project will seek to ensure that at least 25% of the funding allocated to on-the-ground grant activities is directed to Indigenous Peoples and Afro Mexican population. This is part of the project indicators as reflected in section G,2 of the Funding Proposal.

Building on the country's interpretation of the Cancun Safeguards, the ESMF includes a comprehensive environmental and social risks management matrix (Annex 2 in Annex 4.2 to the RBP proposal), conceived as a multipurpose tool to guide the on-going assessment, identification, management, monitoring and reporting of all potential risks identified for the project, including those underscored in this IPPF, consistent with the GCF's IP Policy and FAO's ESS 7, 8, 9.

The specific monitoring indicators that have been included in the project's risk management matrix in the ESMF. Overall, key aspects to be monitored with relevance to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican communities include the following:

Participation, consultation and inclusion

- Accessibility and effectiveness of outreach, consultation and engagement activities.
- Participation of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican population, women and youth in project activities and decision-making processes.
- Inclusion of traditionally underrepresented groups.

Equitable access to project benefits

- Transparency of eligibility and benefit-sharing criteria.
- Access of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population to project incentives and financing.

- Fair and inclusive distribution of project benefits.

Respect for collective rights and community governance

- Recognition of land tenure and community documentation.
- Alignment of project agreements and activities with community governance structures and decision-making procedures.
- Respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights and customary institutions.

Capacity development and access to information

- Identification of capacity-building needs.
- Adaptation of training materials and methodologies to local contexts.
- Strengthening of capacities among Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population and implementing institutions.

Grievance redress and accountability

- Accessibility and effectiveness of grievance and feedback mechanisms.
- Resolution of complaints related to site selection, eligibility and benefit-sharing.
- Transparency and accountability in project implementation.

Social inclusion and gender equality

- Collection and analysis of data disaggregated by sex, ethnicity and location.
- Participation and access to benefits for women.
- Identification of barriers, lessons learned and good practices to improve inclusion.

The project's risks management matrix should be considered a life document, which will be updated as a result of the inception phase as well as whenever revisions are identified by the project's safeguards team, in an adaptive management approach. Detailed methodologies and approaches to monitor and assess management measures, including indicators and reporting parameters, and information on frequency will be further determined as part of the ESMP and IPP, and dedicated procedures and disaggregated information will be considering for a comprehensive assessment, monitoring and reporting in relation to issues relevant to FPIC in the context of on-the-ground implementation. The IPP to be developed during the project inception phase will be implemented under the umbrella of the project's ESMP and complemented by the SEP and GAAP.

8. Institutional arrangements for this planning framework

Section 10 of the ESMF outlines implementation arrangements applicable to the project and its environmental and social management, and so applicable to this IPPF.

The implementation of the IPPF will be led by a full-time Safeguards Specialist within the FAO Project Management Unit, working in close coordination with the Gender Specialist. The Safeguards Specialist will oversee the application of the risk management measures defined in the project's risk management matrix and will conduct ongoing assessment and monitoring of project activities to ensure compliance with applicable safeguards.

The Safeguards Specialist will also be responsible for preparing the ESMP and guiding the reapplication of FAO's environmental and social risk screening checklist during the inception phase, when more detailed information becomes available. This process will include the refinement of identified environmental and social risks—including those relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population—and the corresponding management measures.

If additional risks affecting Indigenous Peoples or Afro-Mexican population are identified at any stage of implementation, the Safeguards Specialist will update both the IPPF and the ESMP risk matrix accordingly, following an adaptive management approach. As noted, the project will not support high-risk activities at any time.

The results of the risk identification and screening processes carried out by FAO will serve as key inputs for CONAFOR in the preparation of the Operating Rules for project activities. These rules incorporate social and environmental eligibility, exclusion, and prioritization criteria. The Operating Rules will be formally shared with State Offices and State Forestry Councils—which include representation from Indigenous Peoples—for feedback prior to their finalization and publication. These institutional consultation processes will play a key role in further informing the risk identification.

Territorial Agents, who work directly at the local level and maintain close engagement with community actors, including Indigenous Peoples, will play a key role in identifying, communicating, and helping monitor risks at the territorial level. Their proximity to communities will support continuous feedback and context-specific risk identification throughout project implementation. In addition, ongoing stakeholder engagement and capacity-building activities, as defined in the SEP, will serve as complementary mechanisms to identify, assess, and monitor risks and management measures related to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population over the course of the project.

Regarding conflict and security-related risks, this IPPF recognizes that project implementation may take place in areas affected by conflict dynamics, community tensions, and security-related risks. To address these risks, the Project will undertake, as appropriate, assessments for the proposed areas of intervention which include the identification of existing conflicts, territorial pressures and security risks, prior to implementation of field activities.

The project will apply a do-no-harm approach and ensure that participation in project activities remains voluntary, inclusive, and free from coercion, intimidation, or retaliation. The project's risk assessments and mitigation measures will be reviewed and updated periodically throughout implementation to reflect changes in the operating environment and ensure effective management of conflict- and security-related risks. Consistent with FAO's conflict-sensitive programming approach, the Project will ensure that its activities do not contribute to divisions, disputes, or violent conflict, and will seek to avoid causing harm while supporting positive contributions to local peace that are consistent with FAO's mandate. FAO has developed corporate tools, guidance and training on context analysis, conflict sensitivity and sustaining peace, including methodologies developed jointly with Interpeace. These corporate approaches will guide the assessment, monitoring and management of conflict-related risks throughout project implementation.

9. Budget and financing of this planning framework

Section 10 in the ESMF details an overarching timeline and preliminary budget considering all costs required to manage environmental and social risks as established in risk management matrix prepared for the project, including all issues relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population and this IPPF, as well as those relevant to women and marginalized groups as identified in the GAP, and those relevant to participation and consultations of all stakeholders, as per the SEP. Said budget includes expenses in terms of full time staff with expertise on safeguards, gender, and social inclusion.

A detailed plan with itemized budget will be refined for the ESMP during the project inception phase, once further details regarding the operation of on-the-ground activities have been determined. This will include

a disaggregated budget for the IPP, including dedicated budget required to cover a series of measures and provisions to guarantee the right to consultation and FPIC (when needed) are respected throughout the life cycle of on-the-ground activities to be supported by the project. For the purposes of the project's ESMF/ESMP and this planning framework, all activities relevant to stakeholder engagement and consultations are covered under the SEP.

Note: In no case shall Program activities that may adversely affect Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican population – including the existence, value, use or enjoyment of their lands, resources or territories – take place before the comprehensive IPPF is complete and under implementation. Where other Project documents already develop and address issues listed in the above sections, citation to the relevant document(s) shall suffice.

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Annex 1. Guidance for the development of the Indigenous Peoples Plan

The following guiding questions will be considered for the development of the Project's Indigenous Peoples Plan, in consistency with FAO's ESS8:

ESS8 Indigenous Peoples

- a) Are the IPs involved or affected by the project dependent on natural resources within the project area?
 - According to the United Nations, the term 'Indigenous Peoples' refers to distinct collectives who answer to any of the more commonly accepted definitions. Regardless of the local, national and regional terms applied to them, self-identification as a distinct people is a fundamental criterion in the definition of Indigenous Peoples. Other key characteristics of the definition of Indigenous Peoples include: voluntary perpetuation of cultural distinctiveness (e.g. languages, laws, customary cultural, social, economic or political institutions); collective attachment to the lands, territories and resources they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired; traditional livelihoods and tangible and intangible cultural heritage associated with their lands, territories, and resources; priority in time with respect to occupation and use of specific territory; and an experience of subjugation, marginalization, dispossession, exclusion or discrimination, whether or not these conditions persist. Indigenous Peoples may have a distinct language or dialect, often different from the official language or languages of the country or region in which they reside.
- b) Will the project affect access to natural and/or cultural resources used by IPs? If yes, explain the outcome of the discussion of such restriction of access with the affected IP groups or individuals?
- c) When the project will be implemented in or near indigenous peoples territories (owned or claimed), what is the project strategy for conducting FPIC?
- d) Clearly describe measures to enable indigenous peoples to take advantage of opportunities brought about by the project, and to conserve and manage on a sustainable basis the utilization of the unique natural resource base upon which they depend. Such opportunities should be culturally appropriate.

According to GCF's Indigenous Peoples Policy, the IPP will include the following elements:

- (a) Baseline information (from independent and participatory environmental and social risks and impacts assessment processes);
- (b) Key findings and analyses of impacts, risks and opportunities; Indigenous People Policy Page 11
- (c) Measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate negative impacts, and enhance positive impacts and opportunities;
- (d) Community-based natural resource management;
- (e) Results of consultations (during environmental and social risks and impacts assessment processes), including a list of people and organizations that participated, a timetable, who was responsible for each activity, the free, prior and informed consent, and future engagement plans;
- (f) Gender assessment and action plans;
- (g) Benefit sharing plans;
- (h) Tenure arrangements;
- (i) Grievance redress mechanisms;
- (j) Costs, budgets, timetables, organizational responsibilities; and
- (k) Monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Annex 2. Recommendations from stakeholders derived from territorial consultations relevant for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican

population

Theme	Recommendation from stakeholders	States where this was mentioned	Document where this is addressed
1. Access to information, communication and understanding of project activities	Disseminate project opportunities, calls for proposals, application windows, participation timelines and available support sufficiently in advance and through multiple locally appropriate channels. Dissemination should combine community assemblies, producer and territorial organizations, local institutions, printed materials, Indigenous/community radio -where possible-, digital platforms and social media, as appropriate to each territory, rather than relying exclusively on institutional websites or digital platforms.	Chiapas; Jalisco; Michoacán; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	ESMF; IPPF; SEP
1. Access to information, communication and understanding of project activities	Provide culturally appropriate information, interpretation and communication materials in the Indigenous languages used in project territories. The project should identify language needs during territorial planning and engage local interpreters, Indigenous-language-speaking facilitators and technical personnel, particularly when working with older persons and communities where Spanish is not the primary language. Communication should reflect local concepts, institutions and forms of collective decision-making rather than rely on literal translation alone.	Chiapas; Quintana Roo; Oaxaca; Yucatán	ESMF; SEP; IPPF
2. Gender equality and women's participation	Incorporate an intersectional gender approach that recognizes the different barriers experienced by Indigenous women, young women, older women, and women living in vulnerable conditions. Gender-responsive measures should be adapted to territorial and cultural contexts to ensure that no group of women is disproportionately excluded from project opportunities and benefits.	Chiapas; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	GAAP; IPPF; ESMF
3. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican communities, and other priority groups	Ensure culturally appropriate project implementation by recognizing Indigenous and Afro-Mexican governance systems, collective decision-making processes and rights, customary authorities and community protocols throughout project planning and implementation. Project activities should be aligned with local governance structures rather than introducing parallel decision-making mechanisms, ensuring that consultation, participation, and decision-making processes are culturally appropriate, inclusive, and respectful of collective rights.	Chiapas; Jalisco; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	IPPF; ESMF; SEP
3. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-	Integrate Indigenous Peoples' and Afro-Mexican traditional knowledge, local management practices	Chiapas; Jalisco;	IPPF; ESMF

Mexican communities, and other priority groups	and biocultural knowledge into project design, technical assistance, and implementation. Technical approaches should complement, rather than replace, locally developed knowledge and practices related to forest management, livestock production, and ecosystem conservation. Training methodologies should be flexible, participatory, and responsive to local learning processes rather than relying exclusively on standardized technical approaches.	Michoacán; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	
3. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican communities, and other priority groups	Recruit and strengthen Indigenous and locally based technical personnel who understand local languages, cultural practices and territorial realities. Preference should be given, where feasible, to technical teams with demonstrated experience working in Indigenous territories and with knowledge of local institutions and customary practices.	Chiapas; Michoacán; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	IPPF; ESMF
3. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican communities, and other priority groups	Recognize and strengthen the participation of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican women within culturally appropriate governance and decision-making processes, while respecting both collective rights and gender equality principles. Project activities should avoid reinforcing existing exclusion patterns affecting Indigenous women.	Chiapas; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	IPPF; GAAP; ESMF; SEP
3. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican communities, and other priority groups	Promote the participation and leadership of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican youth to support intergenerational knowledge transmission, community continuity and long-term territorial stewardship. Activities should create opportunities for young people to participate in technical training, project activities, and sustainable livelihood initiatives.	Chiapas; Michoacán; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	IPPF; ESMF; SEP
3. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican communities and other priority groups	Ensure that project benefits are delivered in ways that respect collective rights, customary institutions, and community governance arrangements within Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities. Benefit distribution should be compatible with local arrangements and avoid creating internal conflicts.	Chiapas; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	IPPF; ESMF; SEP
4. Strengthening capacities and the technical assistance model	Prioritize locally based technical personnel with practical field experience and knowledge of territorial conditions. Technical assistance should value practical experience alongside formal qualifications and promote the recruitment of professionals who are familiar with local production systems, community institutions and environmental conditions.	Chiapas; Michoacán; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	ESMF; IPPF
4. Strengthening capacities and the technical assistance model	Tailor technical assistance to the needs, capacities, and production systems of different beneficiary groups rather than applying standardized training packages. Capacity-building should respond to territorial characteristics, existing knowledge, production objectives and the different needs of women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples.	Chiapas; Jalisco; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	ESMF; GAAP; IPPF

7. Territorial adaptation and context-specific implementation	Adapt project design and implementation to the environmental, social, cultural, and productive characteristics of each territory rather than applying standardized implementation models. Activities should respond to local needs, priorities, ecosystem conditions, and production systems to improve effectiveness and local ownership, based on specific technical diagnoses (including plot-level diagnoses for silvopastoral systems where necessary).	Chiapas; Jalisco; Michoacán; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	ESMF; IPPF
7. Territorial adaptation and context-specific implementation	Incorporate local priorities and community development objectives into project planning to strengthen ownership and improve the relevance of project interventions. Community priorities should inform implementation planning while remaining consistent with project objectives and social and environmental safeguards.	Chiapas; Jalisco; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	ESMF; IPPF; SEP
7. Territorial adaptation and context-specific implementation	Project implementation should take into account seasonal production, climate, and community calendars. Project timelines should be aligned with production cycles, climatic conditions, and community schedules to avoid creating implementation barriers or limiting participation in project activities.	Chiapas; Jalisco; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	ESMF; IPPF
7. Territorial adaptation and context-specific implementation	Promote the use of native species, locally adapted technologies, and context-appropriate restoration and production practices. Project interventions should build upon local ecosystems and prioritize solutions compatible with territorial conditions.	Chiapas; Jalisco; Michoacán; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	ESMF; IPPF
9. Accessibility, inclusion and equitable access to project benefits	Review and, where feasible, adapt eligibility criteria to reduce unnecessary barriers that may exclude otherwise eligible beneficiaries, particularly women, Indigenous Peoples, smallholders, people without land tenure, users, and other historically vulnerable groups. Eligibility requirements should remain consistent with project objectives while promoting equitable access to project opportunities.	Chiapas; Jalisco; Michoacán; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	ESMF; GAAP; IPPF
9. Accessibility, inclusion and equitable access to project benefits	Adopt differentiated implementation measures to ensure that women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, older persons, and other priority groups can participate on an equitable basis according to their specific needs and circumstances. Equitable access may require differentiated support rather than uniform implementation arrangements.	Chiapas; Jalisco; Michoacán; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	GAAP; IPPF; ESMF
9. Accessibility, inclusion, and equitable access to project benefits	Establish monitoring mechanisms to assess whether project benefits are being accessed across different beneficiary groups and territories. Monitoring should identify different beneficiary groups participation and inform adaptive measures to improve inclusion throughout project implementation.	Chiapas; Jalisco; Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	ESMF; GAAP; IPPF
9. Accessibility, inclusion, and equitable	Ensure that project implementation does not unintentionally reinforce existing inequalities in access to resources, technical assistance, or	Chiapas; Jalisco; Michoacán;	ESMF; GAAP; IPPF

access to project benefits	financial incentives. Periodic reviews should identify exclusion risks and guide corrective actions where needed.	Oaxaca; Quintana Roo; Yucatán	
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