



5th GEF Assembly Side Event

Title: “Ecosystem services tools and lessons in rural communities for mainstreaming Biodiversity”

Date, Time, Venue: Monday May 26, 12:30 – 14:00, Side Event Room 4

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Abstract: There is growing interest in fostering policies and programmes – both in OECD and developing countries – which focus on the conservation and sustainable management of natural capital and biodiversity. Especially in cross-cutting, interinstitutional issues, such as poverty eradication and food security, these areas play a key role as they have a strong influence on the achievement of these and other development goals. The Government of Mexico has an ambitious environmental agenda with a strong focus on the preservation of its biodiversity. In that vein, Mexico, supported by the GEF and partners, is implementing several projects focusing on the conservation and sustainable management of natural capital and biodiversity on a local scale. UNEP’s Mexico Office is supporting a cohort of three projects in collecting and assessing lessons learned and bringing their impact from the local to the national level, with the final goal of mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystems consideration into national policy making, creating policy coherence for biodiversity and ecosystems conservation, and scaling up financing for these objectives across several government sectors.

✓ **Integrating tradeoffs between supply of ecosystem services and land use options into poverty alleviation efforts and development planning in the Sierra Mixteca of Oaxaca (2010-2015; budget: USD 16,5 million)**

This project deals with assessing, implementing and fostering best practices, tools and methodologies to assess ecosystem services and land use options in the Oaxacan Mixteca region. It uses participatory approaches to identify which goods and services are key for the sustainable development of the communities in this area, and which production alternatives could serve the conservation of ecosystems. Furthermore, the project aims at improving the conditions of ecosystems and biodiversity as well as wellbeing of the Sierra Mixtecan population through fostering good governance and creating new links between decision makers and local stakeholders.

✓ **Integrating the Management of Protection and Production Areas for Biodiversity Conservation in the Sierra Tarahumara of Chihuahua (2014-2019; budget: USD 45 million)**

Based on a "Land Management Model", the project aims at designing a decision- and management-strategy for the protection and production areas for biodiversity conservation in the Sierra Tarahumara. The project takes a participatory approach with all communities and stakeholders in the Sierra Tarahumara involved, with the goal of promoting relationships that foster environmental governance, dialogue and participatory decision making. Furthermore, the project has a strong focus on fostering initiatives in social, rural and environmental management and aims at ensuring economic, social and natural sustainability of the Sierra Tarahumara at project completion.

✓ **Mainstreaming the conservation of ecosystem services and biodiversity at the sub-watershed scale in Chiapas (ECOSECHAS) (2010-2014; budget: USD 7 million)**

The project ECOSECHAS seeks to positively influence public policy making, aiming at mainstreaming ecosystem services and biodiversity into decision making and policy design on the three levels of government. Furthermore, it strives to introduce and foster policies which further payments for public and private ecosystems services in the Sierra Costa de Chiapas. Throughout the implementation of the project, project leaders assess the conditions of ecosystem services and biodiversity, taking a watershed approach with a strong focus on protected areas, and aim at building capacity of land users and producers of coffee, cocoa, honey, vegetables, agroforestry, ecotourism and those of niche markets, introducing them to the value of biodiversity, ecosystems, marketing, negotiation, and good sustainable production and land use practices.