

Climate change represents a growing threat to the natural and human capital worldwide. Therefore, the National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP) joins the Mexican Government in its effort to guide conservation policies and actions in a context where climate change is not only a threat, but also an opportunity for Protected Areas (PA). Preserve ecosystems and increase the surface under protection and sustainable management are no doubt the best approaches to reduce the causes and effects of climate change.

GENERAL BACKGROUND

In 2009 the cross-cutting policy instrument “Climate Change Special Program” (PECC in Spanish) was published. This instrument commits Federal Government institutions to national climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives and goals for 2009-2012. Some of the PECC objectives establish specific actions for PAs, such as preservation and increased connectivity of priority ecosystems and their biodiversity.

In this context, and according to the strategic objectives of the “National Program for Natural Protected Areas” 2007-2012, CONANP presents the “Climate Change Strategy for Protected Areas” (ECCAP in Spanish). The ECCAP enlists strategies and action lines with the goal of mitigating climate change, identifying priority measures for adaptation, and establishing guidelines for CONANP’s

management decisions. Nevertheless, the ECCAP recognizes the importance of incorporating key stakeholders in such processes, as well as strengthening technical and institutional capacities in climate change issues.

VISION

Safeguard Mexico’s natural patrimony to face the effects of climate change by transforming protected areas into effective adaptive and mitigating instruments with society’s involvement.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Be a dynamic instrument that guides CONANP’s actions and decisions at a local, regional and national level, allowing the convergence of resources and assistance of government, academic and social institutions.

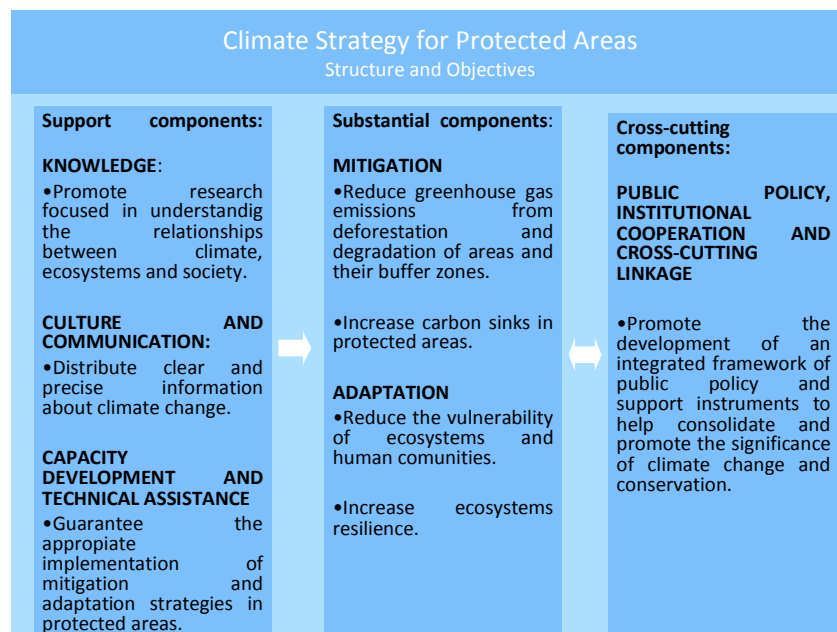




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PARTICULAR OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate the convergence of the PECC objectives and goals with the National Program for Natural Protected Areas, as well as with each PA's Management Program.
- Include CONANP's conservation strategies and legal instruments within the nation's risk assessment and adaptation schemes in the face of climate change.
- Communicate to key stakeholders the spirit and components of the ECCAP to promote synergies and alliances.
- Guide capacity development and synergies inter and intra institutions, to safeguard PAs and their biodiversity within different climate change scenarios.
- Place PAs within national and international policies and mechanisms of climate change mitigation.

The ECCAP consists of two main components that guide operative processes: *mitigation* and *adaptation*.

Mitigation: The main objectives are to reduce deforestation and degradation emissions and increase carbon sinks. The main strategies include: overall fire management, development and implementation of REDD programs within and around PAs, conservation and management of carbon sinks, restoration projects, establishment of new PAs with high biodiversity and carbon mass.

Adaptation: The main objectives are to reduce ecosystem and social community's vulnerability and increase ecosystem resiliency to climate change

impacts. The main measures are: ecological and social vulnerability analysis to climate change impacts; development of adaptation plans for PAs under a landscape system with common problems and vulnerabilities; environmental contingency plans; marine, coastal and terrestrial restoration projects; increased system connectivity; and, local stakeholder projects.

Currently, the ECCAP is being implemented through a variety of programs, including important restoration efforts in Mexican forests and in Caribbean reef communities. Additionally, and in collaboration with the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature and The Nature Conservancy, CONANP is undertaking the project titled "Development of Adaptation Pilot Programs in Natural Protected Areas in Southeast Mexico". This project aims to incorporate climate change adaptation measures within APs management and determine each ecosystem's vulnerability and priority conservation objects through incorporation of local knowledge in conservation and biodiversity management provided by social NGOs, local and state government, academic groups and local stakeholders.

Simultaneously, CONANP is exploring an agreement with the National Meteorology Service to develop a climatic monitoring system within and around PAs to establish a comparison between disturbed and pristine ecosystems climate.

For additional information regarding the ECCAP in Spanish, please go to:

http://www.conanp.gob.mx/que_hacemos/cambio_climatico.php.



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