

# Project on Adaptation in Wetlands in the Gulf of Mexico

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Case study on co-benefits of NBS



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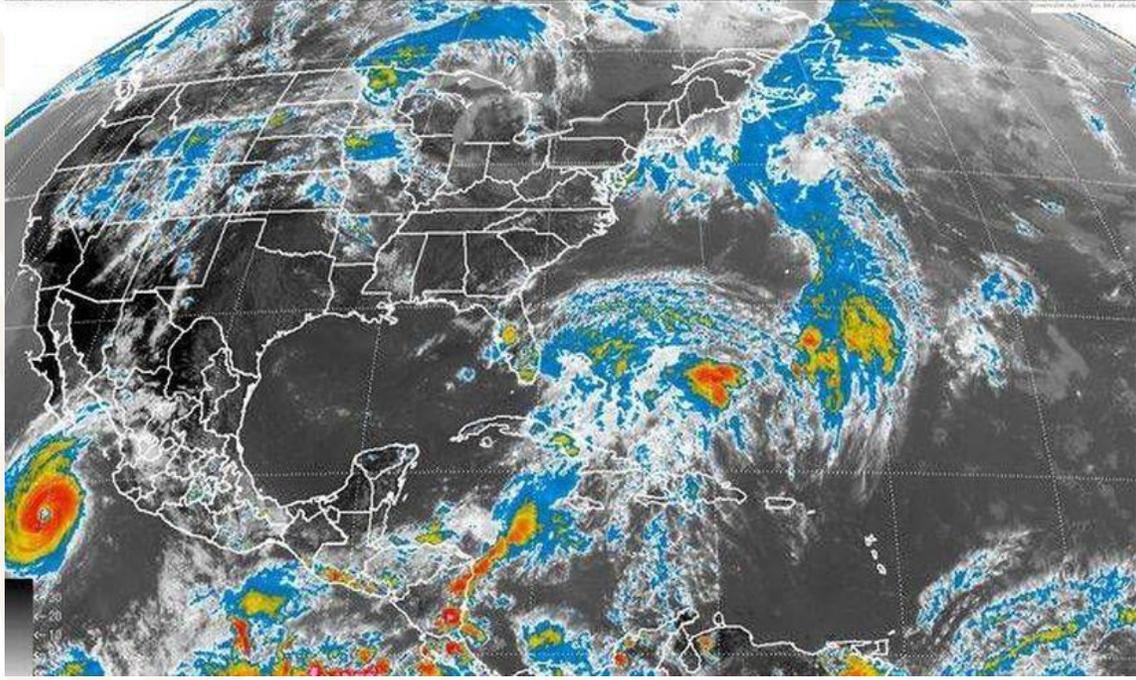


**2022** *Ricardo Flores*  
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# MEXICO

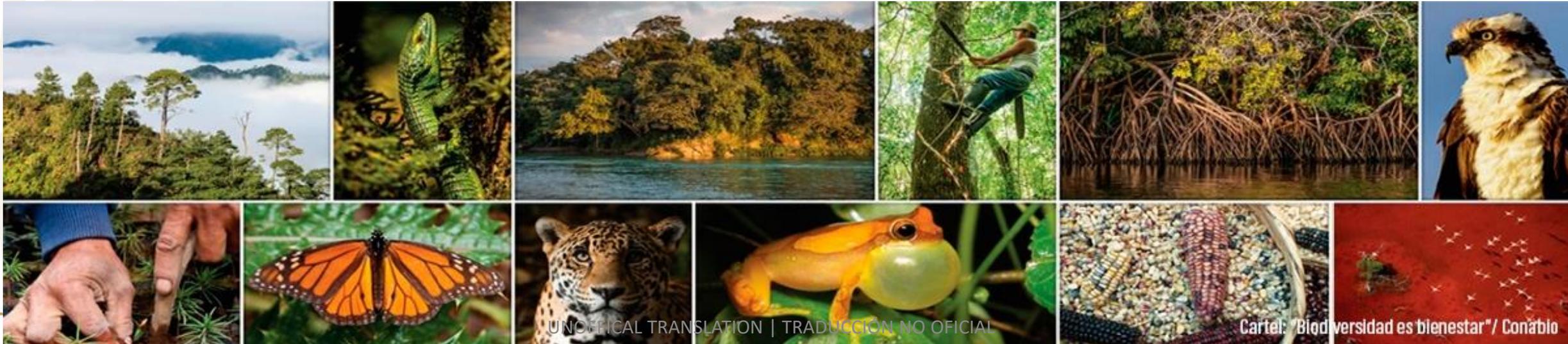
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CONAGUA



1. Highly vulnerable
2. Mega diverse country

Nature-based solutions (NBS) are an important part of the country's national and international commitments.





# PROJECT: ADAPTATION OF COASTAL WETLANDS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS (2011 – 2015)

- GEF Project through the World Bank



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Project implementers:

- Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático (INECC)
- Instituto Mexicano de Tecnología del Agua (IMTA)



**IMTA**  
INSTITUTO MEXICANO  
DE TECNOLOGÍA  
DEL AGUA

Project partners:



**CONAGUA**  
COMISIÓN NACIONAL DEL AGUA



**CONANP**  
COMISIÓN NACIONAL DE ÁREAS  
NATURALES PROTEGIDAS



## Alvarado Lagoon, Veracruz



Pollution  
Activities with conflicting  
interests  
Frequent flooding  
Sea level rise – saltwater  
intrusion

## Carmen-Pajonal-Machona lagoon system, Tabasco



Pollution  
Sea level rise  
Subduction  
Periodic flooding – heavy  
rainfall  
Lack of potable water  
Vulnerable and  
marginalized communities

## Punta Allen Natural Protected Area Wetland – Sian Ka'an, Quintana Roo



Natural Protected Area  
Road construction  
impacting mangroves  
Effect on coral reef –  
Mesoamerican Barrier  
Reef System  
Increase in water  
temperatura and  
changes in precipitation

# Mangroves

- Present in the 17 coastal states
- **905,086 hectares of mangroves (2020 – CONABIO) – 4th largest in the world**



Blue carbon ecosystems – Feeding, breeding and nursery grounds, pollutant filtering, coastal protection, carbon sequestration

# Coral Reefs

- Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System - 2nd largest in the world
- Transboundary reef extending along four countries and more than 1,000 km of coastline
- Key site for the protection of biodiversity: more than 60 types of coral and 500 species of endangered fish.



[https://www.wwfca.org/especies\\_yllugares/arrecife\\_mesoamericano/](https://www.wwfca.org/especies_yllugares/arrecife_mesoamericano/)

Coastal protection, fish production, tourism opportunities.

# Ecosystem-based adaptation - biodiversity conservation as part of a comprehensive strategy for community adaptation to climate change

## Reforestation

- ✓ Mangroves and riparian vegetation

## Restoration of hydrological connectivity

- ✓ Inland canals in mangrove areas

Coast of Tabasco  
and Veracruz

## Hydrological rehabilitation

- ✓ El Playón wetland –  
Topographic survey - implementation of canal network, culvert  
cleaning, etc.

Sian Ka'an, Q. Roo-  
Caribbean Coast

## Coral repopulation

Restoration over 3,500 m<sup>2</sup> - specimens (fragments) of *Acropora palmata* resistant to high temperatures and low salinity.

Contribution to conservation, restoration and rehabilitation -  
ecosystem integrity to increase resilience to climate change impacts.



# Community-based Adaptation / Adaptation based on Disaster Risk Reduction

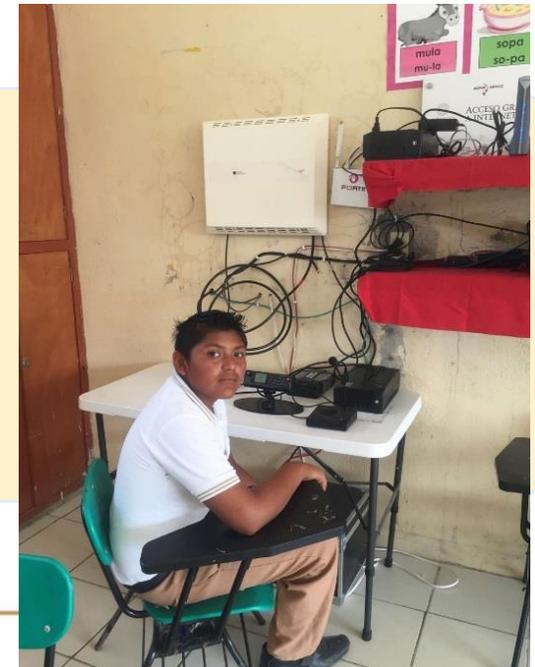
## CBA

- Rainwater harvesting systems
- Raised vegetable gardens
- Social participation tools
- Capacity building

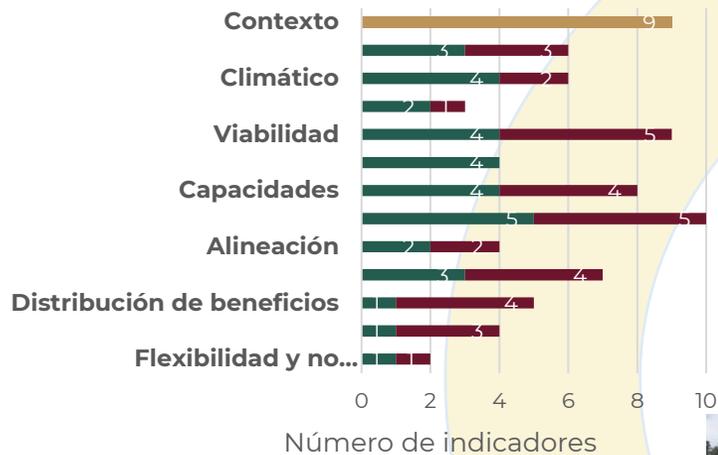


## DRR

- Early warning systems
- Installation of measuring equipment (tide gauges, weather stations)
- Development of social participation tools
- Capacity building



### Monitoring and Evaluation Context, management and impact indicators



### Planning tools



Ecosystem restoration

### Rainwater harvesting



# Ongoing projects

## CONECTA

Promotes connectivity of livestock and agroforestry landscapes in watersheds of Jalisco, Veracruz, Chihuahua and Chiapas in the context of climate change.



## RIOS

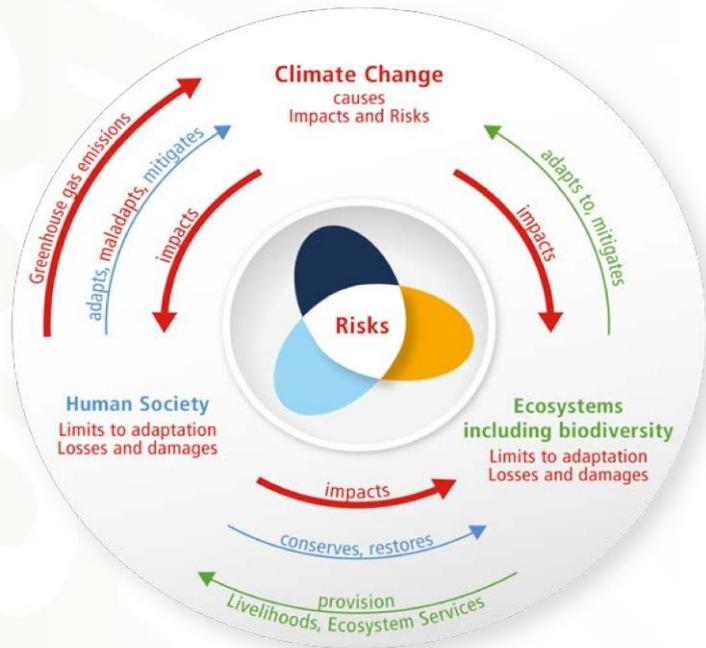
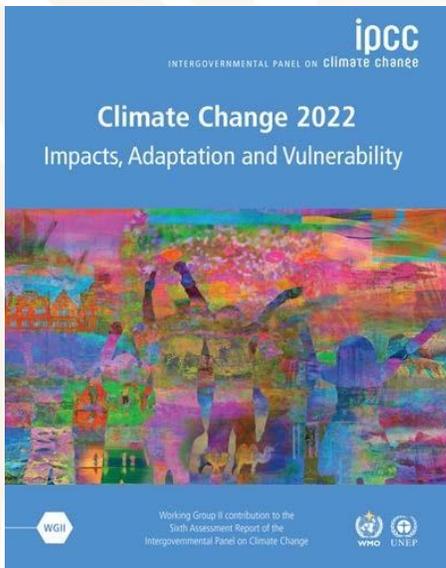
Increase the adaptive capacity of watersheds vulnerable to climate change in Jalisco and Veracruz through river restoration and ecosystem connectivity.



- ✓ Gender and human rights approach
- ✓ EbA and NBS approach
- ✓ Inter-institutional collaboration



Climate change does not affect all people in the same way: poverty, gender inequality, ethnicity, social class (among others) determine sensitivity and adaptive capacity.



## Climate Change Adaptation (emphasizing NBS)

- ✓ Biodiversity conservation
- ✓ Caring for the most vulnerable
- ✓ Food and water security
- ✓ Poverty reduction
- ✓ Reduction of inequality
- ✓ Recognition and recovery of traditional knowledge
- ✓ Post-COVID-19 green recovery



There is a brief window of opportunity, which is rapidly closing to achieve a livable future.

New understanding of the interactions between climate change, human societies and ecosystems



# Lessons Learned

1. Adequate vulnerability assessment is essential (Scale, differentiated vulnerability)
2. Community participation– gender representation
3. Bringing gender and human rights approach to the field - reducing inequality gaps. Climate change aggravates asymmetries; the causes must be addressed.
4. Sharing lessons learned and best practices
5. Consider a systemic (ecosystem) approach.
6. Monitoring and evaluation
7. Promoting awareness of the importance of the ecosystem and its environmental services - social cohesion- Unexpected co-benefit



# ¡GRACIAS!

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