



Mexican maize landraces and traditional societies of Mexico: Traditional Ecological Knowledge

**Maíces nativos y pueblos de México:
Conocimiento tradicional ecológico**



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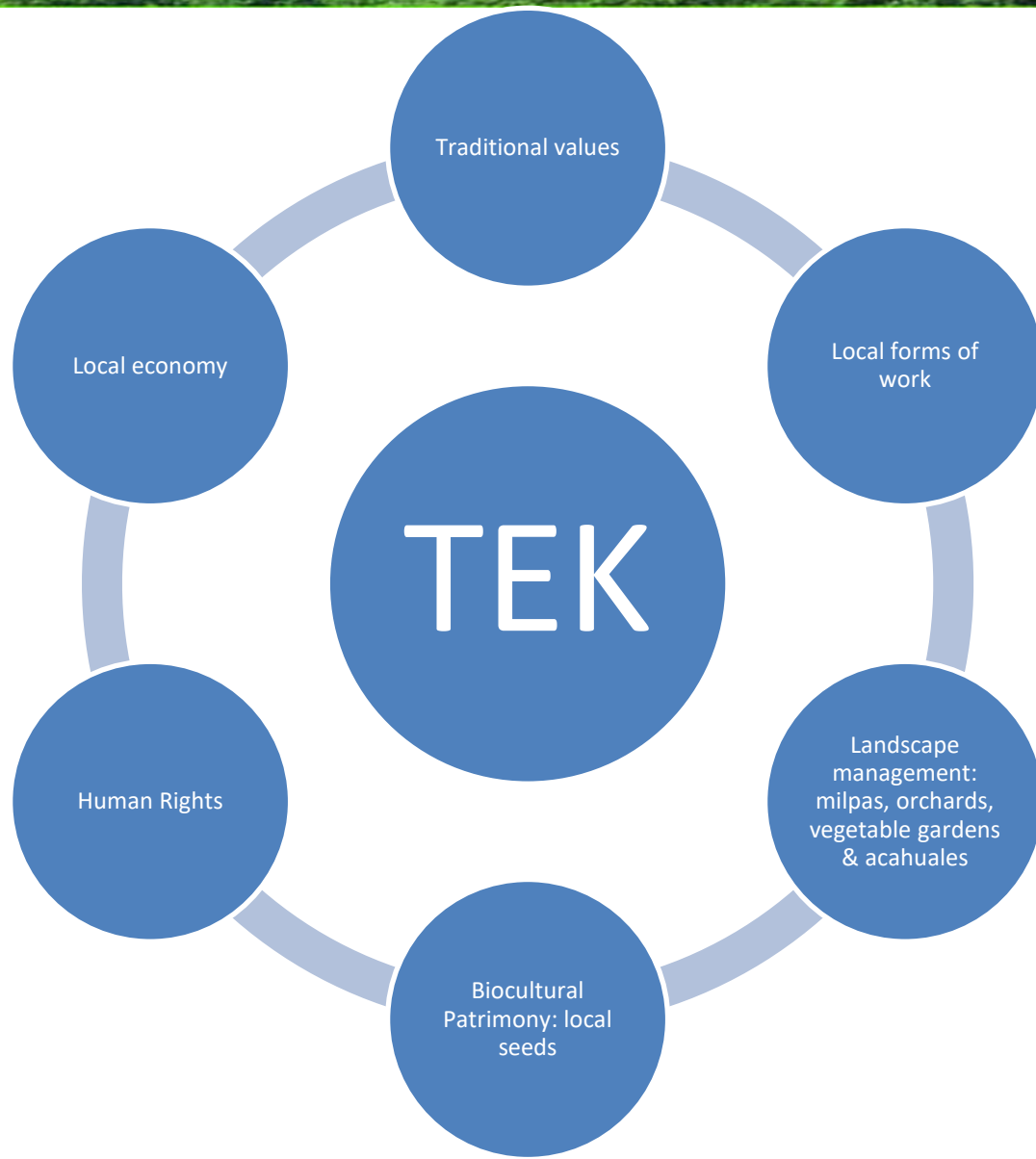
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Credits


Eckart Boege, 2010

CONABIO, 2011





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- Indigenous people and peasants, using TEK , in Mexico (Mesoamerica) contributed with 15.4% of the species of the world food system, which is 225 cultivated plants
 - 65 Mexican maize landraces
 - Coevolution process (8000 years, 350 generations)
 - Maize versatility: 0 to 3000 MASL & 200 to 3000 mm of rain
 - Identity between seeds-territories

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- Local landraces of maize are the greatest achievement and most important contribution of Mexican indigenous people and peasants to the world
 - Mexicans use their local landraces of maize in more than 600 presentations (dishes)



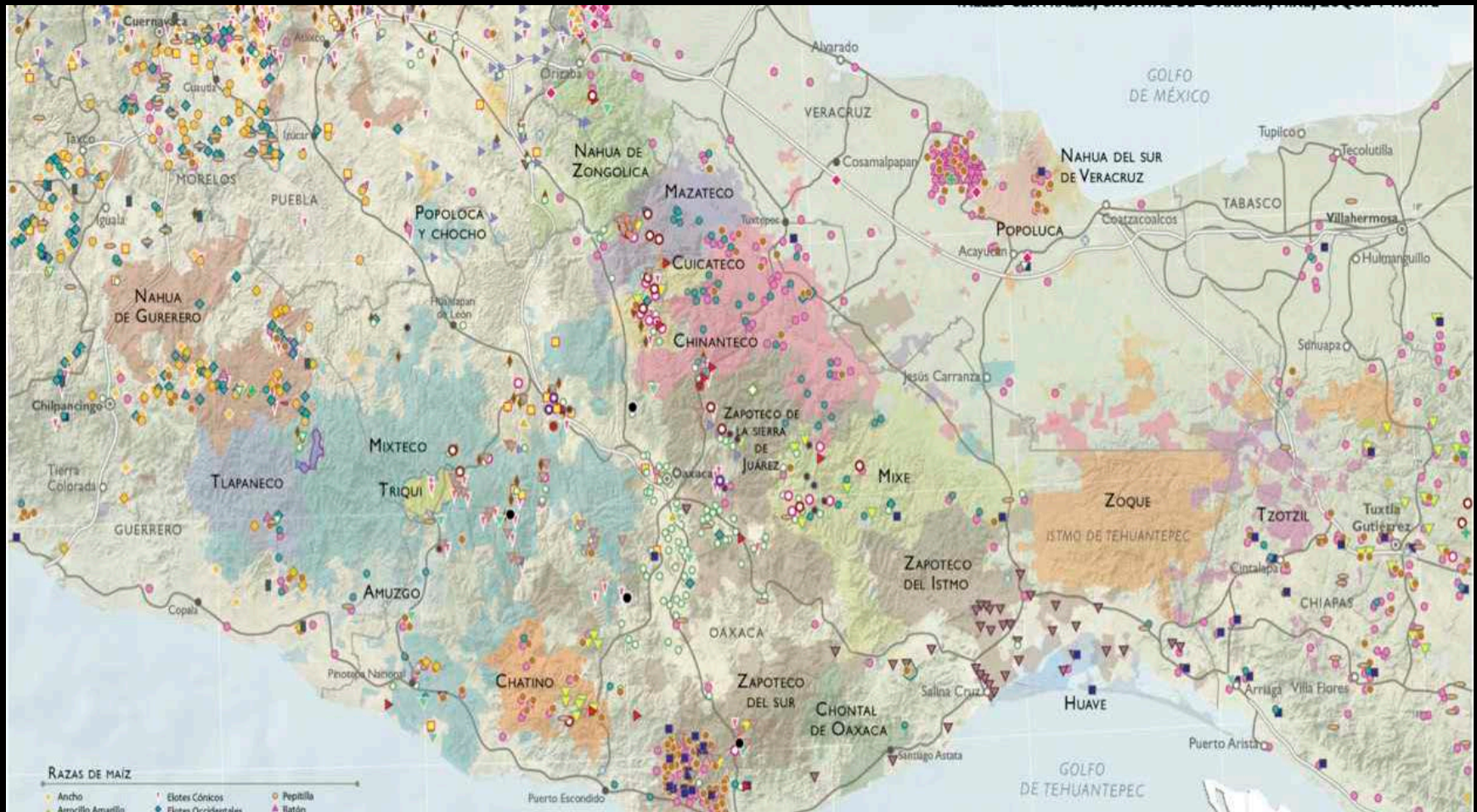








CONABIO 2011 www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/genes/proyecto_Maices.html y Boege E. 2010 El Patrimonio biocultural de los Pueblos Indígenas de México. Hacia la conservación *in situ* de la biodiversidad y agrobiodiversidad en los territorios de los pueblos indígenas de México. INAH – CDI-SEMARNAT



New research about maize landraces distribution in indigenous people territories. (Boege 2013, CONABIO database 2011)

Conclusions

- All the Mexican territory is center of origin, diversification and use of Mexican maize landraces
- Keys for maize conservation: (i) TEK promotion and (ii) participation of indigenous people and peasants in decision processes
- What do Mexican maize landraces need? Promotion of the indigenous people way of life, governmental budget assignation, adequate cultural policies and the application of the precautionary principle on maize GMO liberation

More information

- CONABIO:
<http://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/genes/proyectoMaices.html>
- UCCS: <http://www.uccs.mx>
- Red de Etnoecología y Patrimonio Biocultural de México:
http://etnoecologia.uv.mx/Red_quees.html

... por un mundo justo y en armonía con la naturaleza



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