

Local communities and indigenous communities that have conserved or increased their forests

Lessons learned from Michoacán, Mexico

Some context

- Michoacán is a state located on the west coast of Mexico and is among the 10 most important forested states in the world
- It has 5.8 million hectares, of which 2.2 million hectares are covered by forests and jungles.
- Approximately 70% of the forests are in the hands of indigenous communities and local communities
- Since 2017 the federal budget for forests has been drastically reduced and by decreasing stimuli for forest management and conservation, the risk of land use change for highly profitable crops such as avocado or the real estate industry increases
- In this context, we have analyzed in which cases communities have resisted land use change pressures and have conserved or increased their forests.

Lessons learned: in which cases have communities conserved their forests by resisting land use change pressures?

- Local communities that have a forest production with a good market price such as resin and timber production. Average community standard of living
- Indigenous communities that are receiving multi-year subsidies for restoration projects and have a good standard of community living.
- Indigenous communities that are receiving payment for environmental services with medium to high levels of community living.

Proposals

- Increase federal and state budgets for the forestry sector.
- Balance the policy of support for forests and agricultural and livestock activities.
- Strengthen national and international policies to promote the consumption of deforestation-free products and to close markets to products that do not comply with this condition