Global Climate Change

Data at a Glance

- Mexico ranks 13th in the world in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with 1.6% of the global total (2014).

- Mexico has committed to reducing 25% of its GHG emissions by 2030.

- Mexico ranks 12th in the world in forested area with 660,000 km^2 covered by forests (2015).

- Between 2010 and 2015, the net deforestation rate in Mexico was estimated at 91,600 hectares/year.

- By 2024, 35% of Mexico's electricity will be clean, through a mix .of renewable sources and improved technologies.

Overview

USAID has a long history of supporting Mexico's efforts to address climate change issues and provide sustainable economic opportunities for communities. Recognizing global climate change as a policy priority for Mexico and the United States, USAID/Mexico has programmed over USD $50 million since 2010, under President Obama's Global Climate Change Initiative, with the Government of Mexico (GOM) as its principal partner. Counterpart agencies include the Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources and Energy, along with reform-minded state and municipal governments. USAID also is engaging with non-governmental stakeholders, including the private sector, environmental NGOs, local and indigenous communities, and civil society advocacy groups to promote clean energy and reduce deforestation.

Objective: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduced in Targeted Key Sectors

Under USAID/Mexico's Country Development Cooperation Strategy, for fiscal years 2014-2018, USAID supports the GOM's efforts to achieve a low-carbon future by focusing on low emissions development strategies and on specific mitigation efforts in the energy, forestry, and agricultural sectors. USAID's initiatives address two cross-cutting objectives: 1) Support the GOM to develop its low emissions development strategy, and 2) Establish internationally robust GHG monitoring, reporting, and verification systems. In addition, the program focuses on strengthening policies and institutional capacities, and creating sustainable financial mechanisms for emissions mitigation in the energy, forestry, and agricultural sectors.

Key Achievements

- USAID provided technical assistance for the development of Mexico's Climate Change Strategy.
- Assisted Mexico to formulate mitigation cost curves for GHG abatement strategies.
- Assisted development of a model for social and environmental safeguards for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation.
- Developed an overall planning roadmap for integrating renewable energy into Mexico's electrical grid.
- Initiated a regional REDD+ program in the Yucatan Peninsula.
- Fostering peer-to-peer learning, training, and exchanges of technical experts in climate change and energy, leading to multiple outcomes, including the design of a clean energy certificate system – the key incentive for renewable power generation.

USAID Global Climate Change Activities

Mexico's Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) activity, Implementer: The Nature Conservancy
USAID supports a national REDD+ strategy, by working in close collaboration with the Mexican government and civil society to develop policies and regulations, build institutional and technical capabilities, and develop the needed financial systems for implementing this.

Mexico Low Emissions Development Program, Implementer: Tetra Tech ES
In this activity, USAID provides broad-based support to the GOM on the development and implementation of its Low Emissions Development Strategy, and promotes clean energy through policy development, development of financing approaches, and institutional strengthening.

Mexico: Sustainable Landscapes, Implementer: U.S. Forest Service
USAID supports technical assistance and collaboration by the U.S. Forest Service with its GOM counterparts, including the National Commission for Forests, Protected Areas, and Biodiversity, to develop and implement tools and policies related to REDD+.

Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies, Implementer: National Renewable Energy Laboratories
USAID supports Mexico's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping to eliminate barriers to greater use of renewable energy, like wind, solar, and geothermal.

Small Projects Assistance, Implementer: U.S. Peace Corps
USAID provides resources for Peace Corps volunteers to provide technical assistance and build local capacity of Mexican institutions and individuals to implement environmental activities.

Water/Wastewater Utility Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Energy Management Program, Implementer: Green Hub / MDB Advisors, LLC
Through this public-private partnership, USAID and Mexico's Border Environment Cooperation Commission support cost effective energy conservation and renewable energy projects at municipal utility sites.

Integrated Landscape Management for REDD+ in Community Lands Project, Implementer: Consejo Civil Mexicano para la Silvicultura Sostenible
This activity supports the development of viable models of local community landscape management in Campeche, Estado de Mexico, and Quintana Roo.