



Community Management for the Sustainable Use of Forests: the Case of México

Workshop of Strategies and Forestry Policies in Honduras.

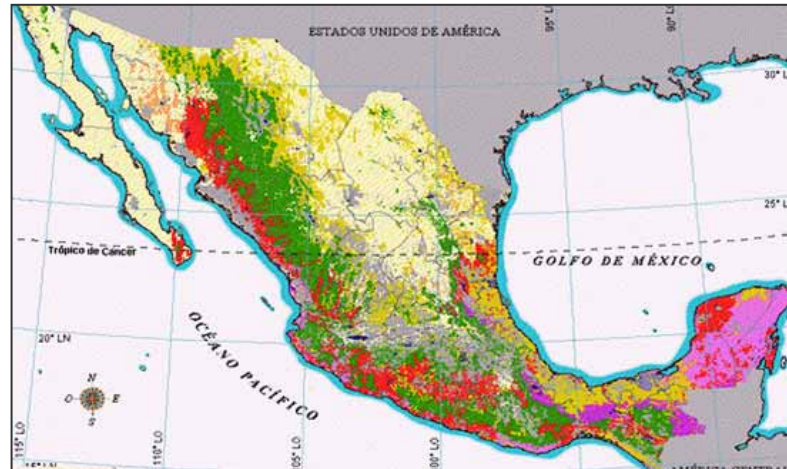
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Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Mayo, 2004.



Forest Resources



- National Area: 197.3 mill ha
- Natural Vegetation: 141.7 mill ha. (70%)
- Native Forests: 56.9 mill. Ha (11^o in the world)
- Elevated biodiversity and endemic species (4^o in the world)
- Rate of Annual deforestation: 600 mil ha



Social and Economic Conditions



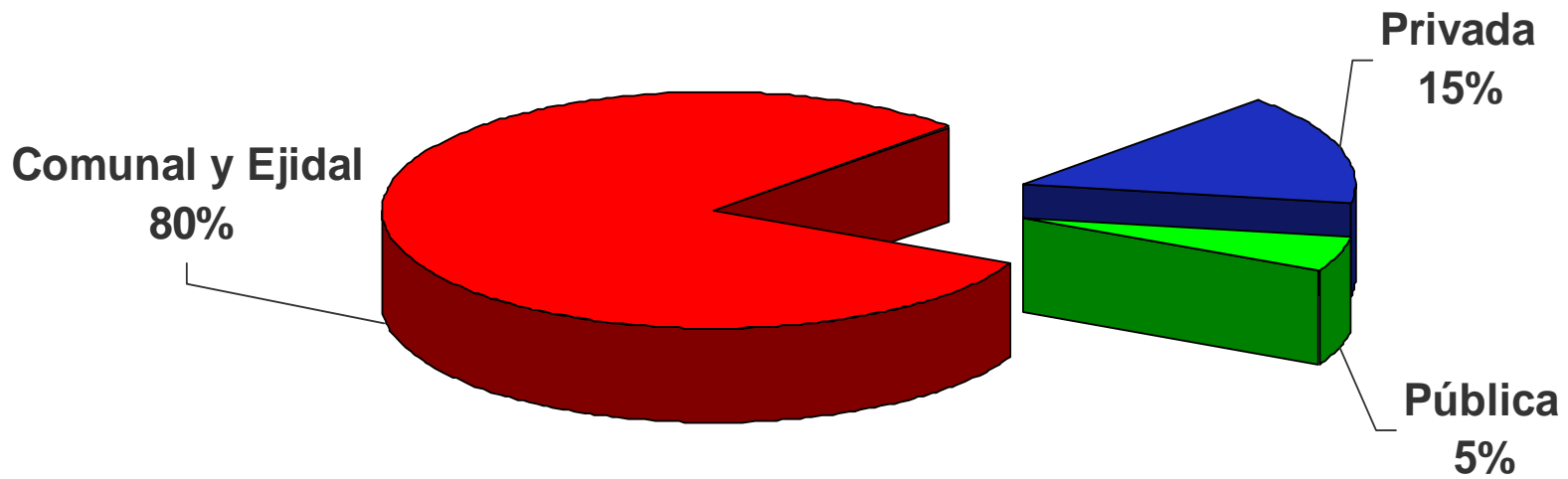
- **13-15** mill. people inhabit forest regions
- **55%** are in extreme poverty
- **43** ethnic groups (**5** mill.)

- Commercial forest area: **21.6 M ha**
- Area under use: **8.6 M ha**
- National production: **9.4 M m³**
- Contribution of the sector to the PIB: **1.83%**





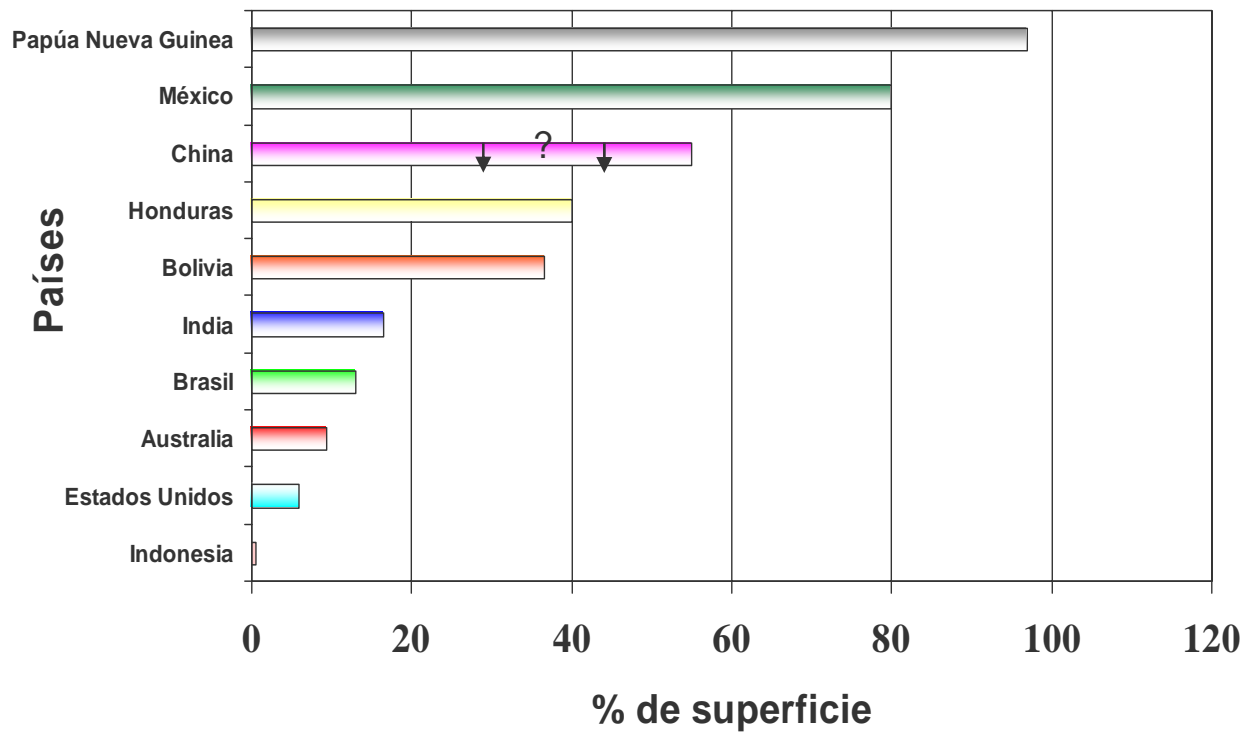
Trends in Forest Lands



Fuente: SARH, 1993



Forest Areas under Community Possession or Control in the World

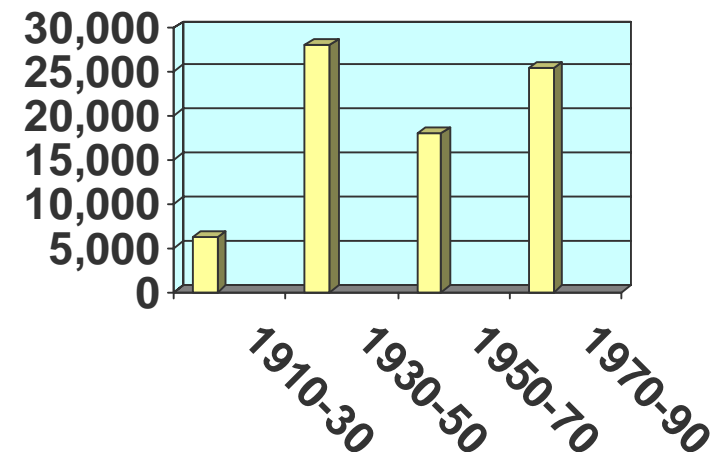




México

- **Ambitious and long process of return of forest land to a cooperative or indigenous community (1910-90)**
- **The Government maintains control over usage rights for forest resources: regulation and concessions to private and public businesses (1940-70)**
- **New policies and legal reforms encourage the appropriation of forests by cooperations and communities and their organization for the commercial production of wood: The first Community Forest Businesses (EFCs) rise (1974-86).**
- **The process receives much support from civil and social organizations of the second and third level and supports itself in the social capital of rural traditional communities.**
- **New governmental boost to *Community Forestry*, with programs and budgets with no historical precedent (SEMARNAT, 1994 and National Forestry Commission, 2001)**

**Reparto Agrario Postrevolucionario
(Miles de Ha)**





Forest Communities in México

Social Units (Indigenous Communities and “Cooperatives”) in forest areas: 9000 (Aprox. 45 M ha)

- **45% belongs to indigenous groups.**
- **65% count on commercial potential.**
- **20-25 % count on forest management programs (1,800 social units).**
- **5-9 % with developed *EFCs***





Typology of Community Forest Businesses

<p>Type I Communities that sell in <i>trees by foot</i></p>	<p>Producers who live off of land investments who sell wood by foot in thirds.</p>
<p>Type II Communities who Sell <i>Wood by Piece</i></p>	<p>Producers who sell prime materials with no transformation.</p>
<p>Type III Communities who Sell <i>Sawed Wood</i></p>	<p>Producers with ability for transformation and commercialization of prime materials.</p>
<p>Type IV Communities who Sell <i>Finished Products</i></p>	<p>Producers with the ability to process sawed wood.</p>





Characteristics of EFCs

- Developed with ends of commercial production of wood in a regimen of common property (Only model of its kind in the world)
- Success associated with elevated social capital by traditional forms of government (permanent tension between community tradition and business tradition).
- Based in a social rationality: alternative model to that of private and public businesses.
- Results from different internal arrangements in traditional forms of government and business management.





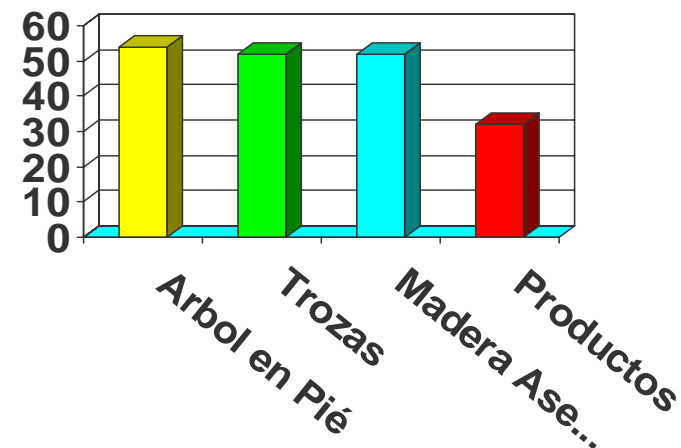
Characteristics of EFCs

- They've faced the challenge of transition into community control of forest and vertical integration after the era of concessions.



- A high percentage of EFCs have demonstrated that they are profitable in all levels of vertical integration.

Margen de Ganancia de EFC's por Tipo de Producto *



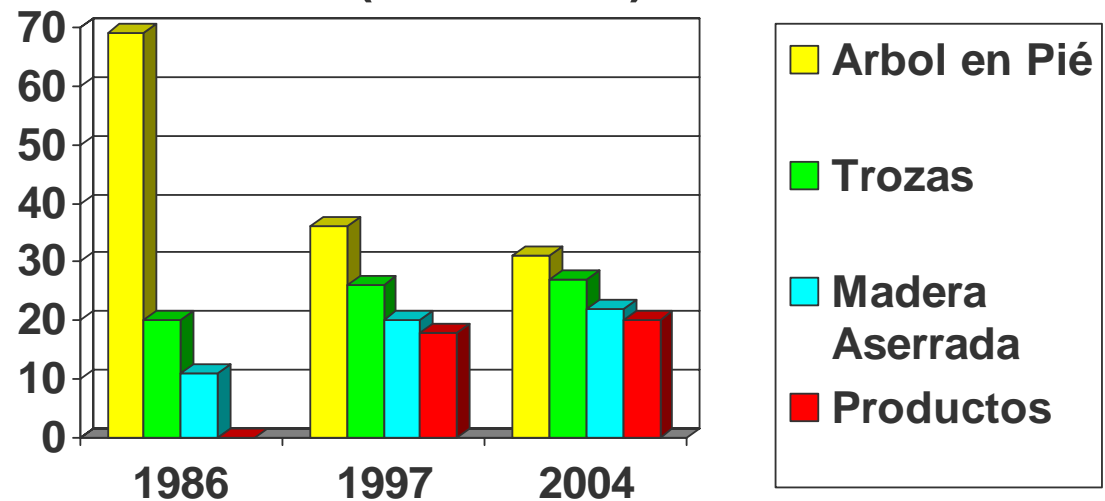


Economic and Socials Benefits of EFCs

- EFCs have advanced toward vertical integration to give the most added value to their products and to generate better benefits

- The viability of vertical integration is correlated to the extension of the commercial forest area(5-10 mil ha)

Integración Vertical
(1986-2004) *



Fuente: Antinori 2001; Conafor 2004.

* Datos de 42 EFC's del estado de Oaxaca.



Economic and Social Benefits of EFCs

- They contribute to social and economic development:
 - ✓ 1) Creation of jobs;
 - ✓ 2) Investments in infrastructure and programs for social benefits;
 - ✓ 3) Productive Reinvestment in EFCs;
 - ✓ 4) Distribution of individual benefits.

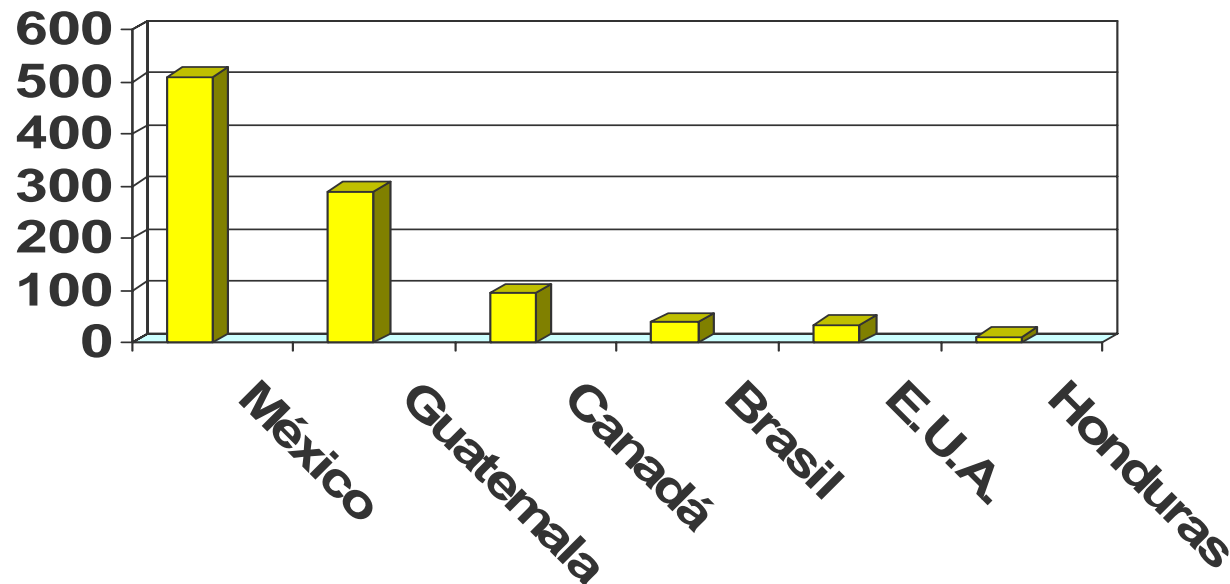




Certification and Markets

- 25 communities certified by the FSC (518,600 ha; > 1M m³, abril 2003): highest percentage in the world.
- Face challenges to commercialize their products in the globalized economy. The majority sell in local and regional markets and some are accessing international markets.

**Superficie Forestal Comunitaria
Certificada por el FSC
(Miles de Ha)**





Environmental Benefits of EFCs

- High percentage of communities located in areas of critical value for biodiversity in tropical and temperate ecosystems (1500 in 3 states of the southeast).
- Communities in 7 M ha. Invested US\$ 2/ ha in conservation, vs. US\$1/ha invested in ANPs.
- Advanced EFCs invest in: creation of community reserves, reduction of intensity in short, protection of critical habitats.
- Advanced EFCs develop new ecosystem management schemes: productive diversification to other forest goods and services (ecotourism, PFNM, water and others)





Experiences de Governmental Attention

- **Community forestry is an effective instrument of sustainable development.**
- **Social capital is indispensable to boost community forest development.**
- **Development of technical abilities between producers who generate dynamics of self-management that are more autonomous and efficient.**
- **Community Forest Businesses (EFCs) power the appropriation of productive dynamics.**





Experiencias of Governmental Attention

- **The technical and commercial inter-community relationships contribute to strengthening the community management and acquiring a regional vision with the usage of forest resources.**
- **The productive diversification of various forest products and services increases income options.**
- **Individualized government attention is integral and continues on to producers to strengthen ability of management and social capital.**
- **Technical and professional services are decisive for the sectorial development of forest communities.**



Challenges of EFCs in the new decade

- Tension between traditional forms of community organization and a business culture.
- Strengthening the social capital of community institutions (democracy, participation, equity of type, transparency, surrender of accounts).
- Productive diversification and access to emerging markets of environmental goods and services.
- Over-regulation.
- Commercial opening and competition with commercial forest plantation products.
- Problems with access of small producers to the international market of certified products.



Global Lessons from the Mexican Model

- 1.** The return of public and private lands in regimens of common property generates an economic and social well-being and improves the management of forest ecosystems.
- 2.** The Mexican EFCs are the only case in the world where communities manage forest common property resources for the commercial production of wood.
- 3.** The strengths of Mexican EFCs show that they can be accumulated to the community level that can improve the level of life to to the level of individual homes.
- 4.** Governmental actions can create new forms of social capital in rural zones and favor the development and competitiveness of EFCs.
- 5.** The leadership and vision of many communities with successful EFCs has had an illustrative effect, creating social capital and reducing social conflicts.