

Organizing Ourselves to Sustainably Manage Natural Resources: Experience from the Indigenous Community of Nuevo San Juan Parangaricutiro, Mich.



“Next Generation of Forest Agency Leaders 2015”

Historical stages of land tenure in Mexico

Colony

- **1573 Spain claims ownership of indigenous peoples territories, ordering recognizing their territories, on the same basis that before the conquest, i.e. in the form of communal property (Calpulli)**
- **Besides, the Ejidos are created for the dispossessed groups in territories at the hands of the Spanish**



Independent Mexico

- New measures to organize land tenure
- The June 25, 1856 Confiscation Act (Law Lerdo) is issued
- Communities and ejidos ran the fate of (religious) corporations with large areas lost
- On May 31st, 1875 Homestead Act, occupation and alienation of vacant lots



Mexican Revolution (1910)

- 1910 The landowner used the first landowners as workforce (slaves) for their vast estates.
- Farmers suffered from exploitation and marginalization, especially in the center and south of the country. This led to social justice claims, at the end of the Revolution, which became one of the *raisons d'être* of the current Constitution and the political system built since 1917
- Emiliano Zapata designs the “Ayala Plan”, 1915 Law (Restitution of land to the people)

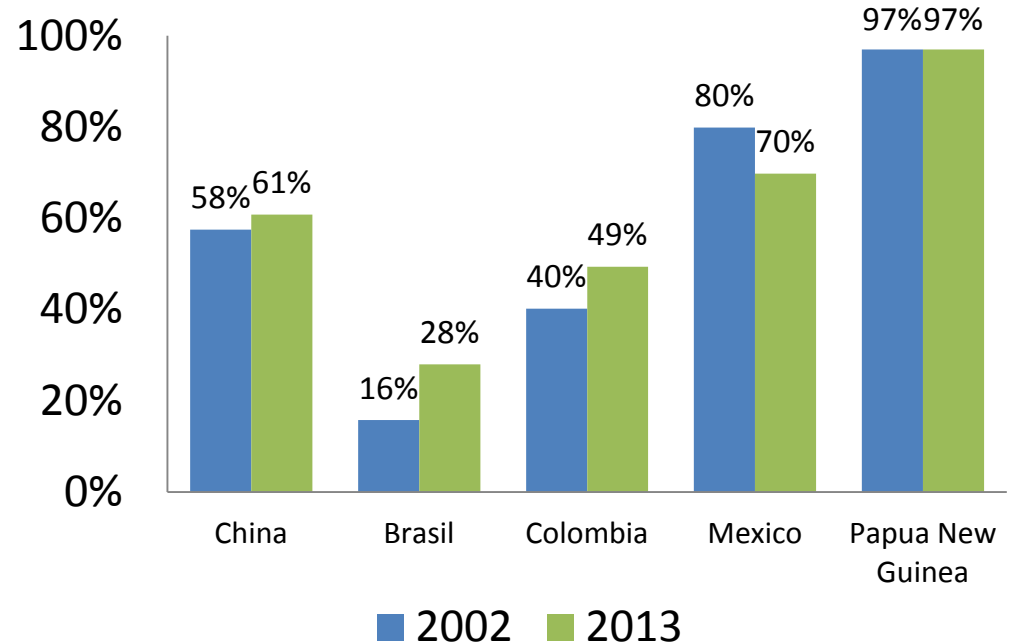




Forest ownership worldwide

The forests of most countries in the world are in the hands of governments or private sector companies. An example of this is Indonesia, where 98% of the forest is managed by the Government.

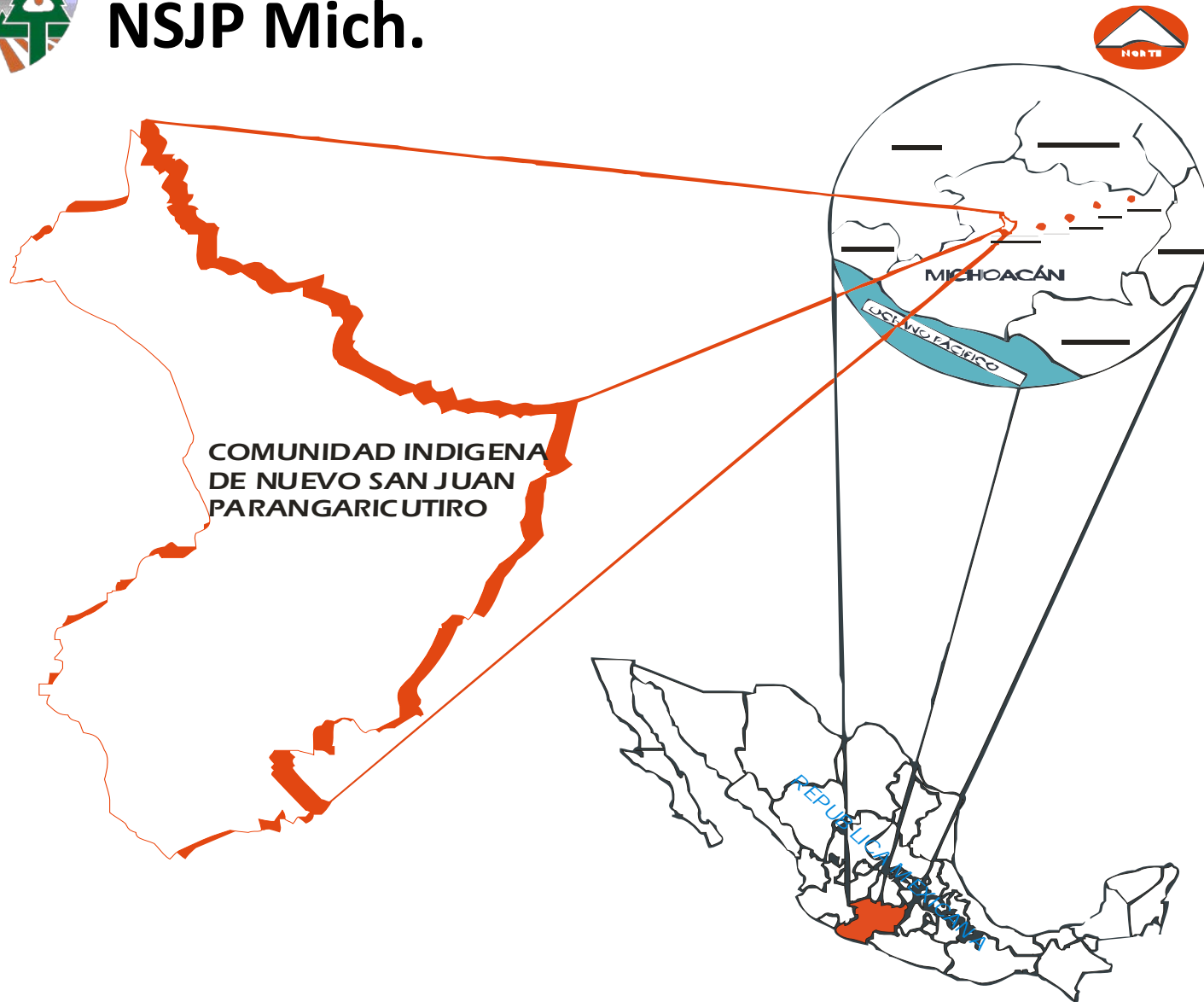
By contrast, in countries such as Papua New Guinea, Mexico, China, Colombia and Brazil, large percentage of forests are owned by communities and/or indigenous groups.



Source: RRI, what future awaits forest tenure reform? Slowing progress and forest tenure reform since 2002. 2014.




Location of the Indigenous Community of NSJP Mich.



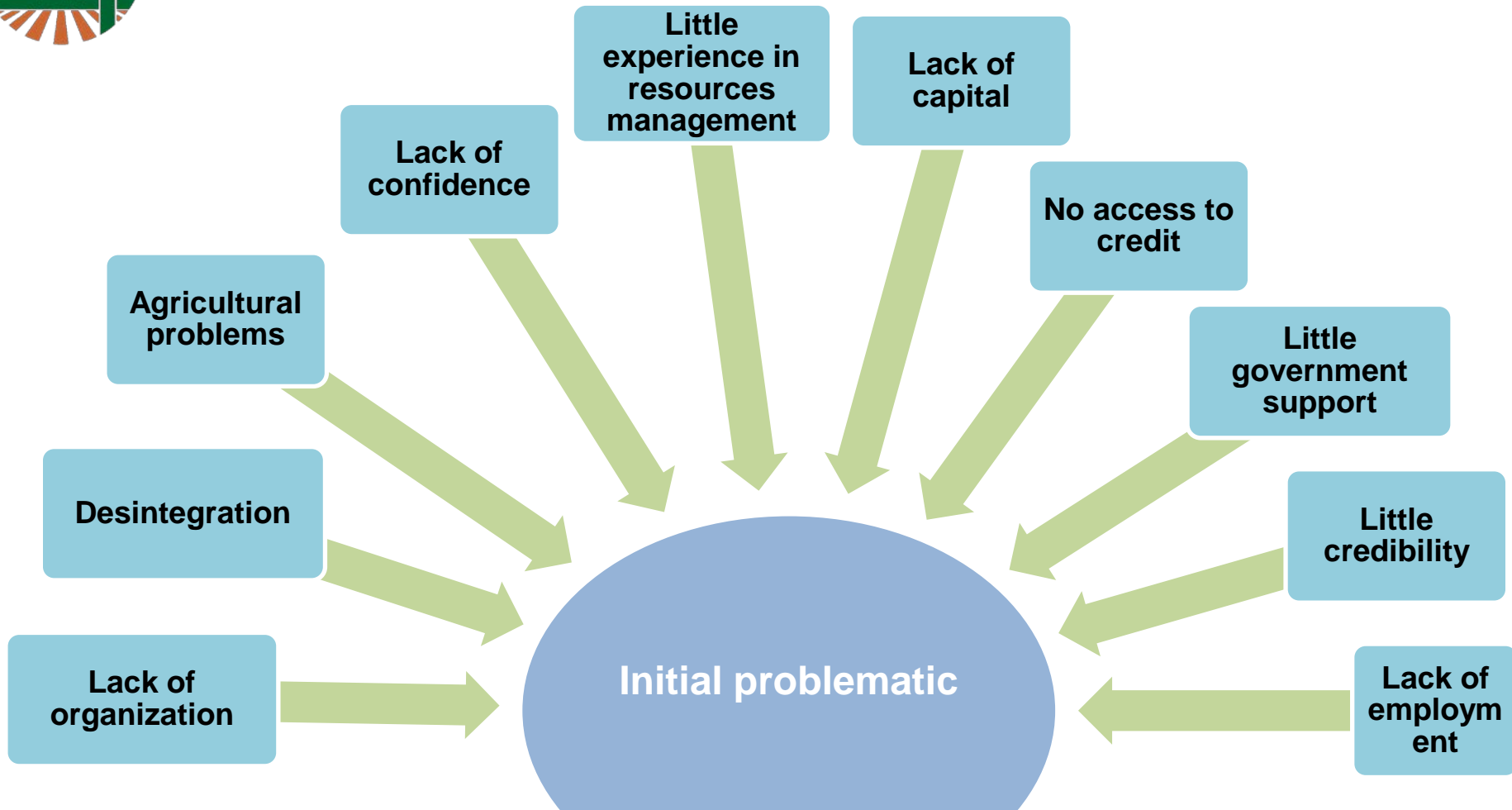


Background of the Indigenous Community of NSJP Mich.

- o **The Community owns colonial titles since 1715.**
 - o **1943, Paricutin volcano erupts and some villagers have to migrate to the US, others become engaged in the extraction of pine resin and agriculture.**
- 
- o **1960 a 1973, disorderly exploitation of the forests by caciques.**
 - o **1979, a group of community members initiates the forest exploitation.**



Challenges at the beginning



What actions are possible to get through this?

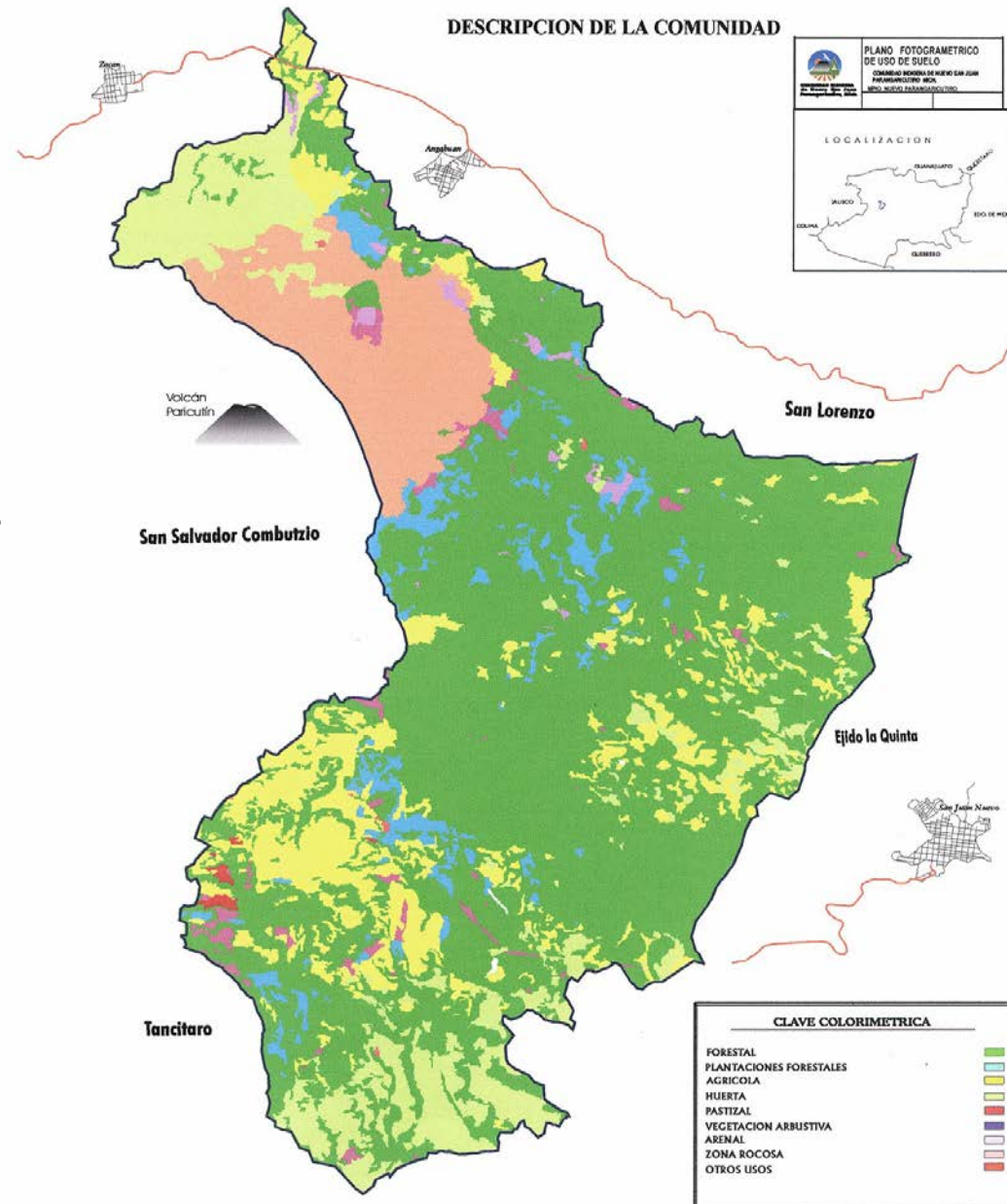


Map of the Indigenous Community of NSJP Mich.

SUPERFICIES:

- Forest trees under cultivation 10,464 has.
- Woodland protection and recreation areas 578 has.
- Forest plantations 1,300 has.
- Agriculture area 2,962 has.
- Fruit area 1,208 has.
- Volcanic lava 1,626 has.

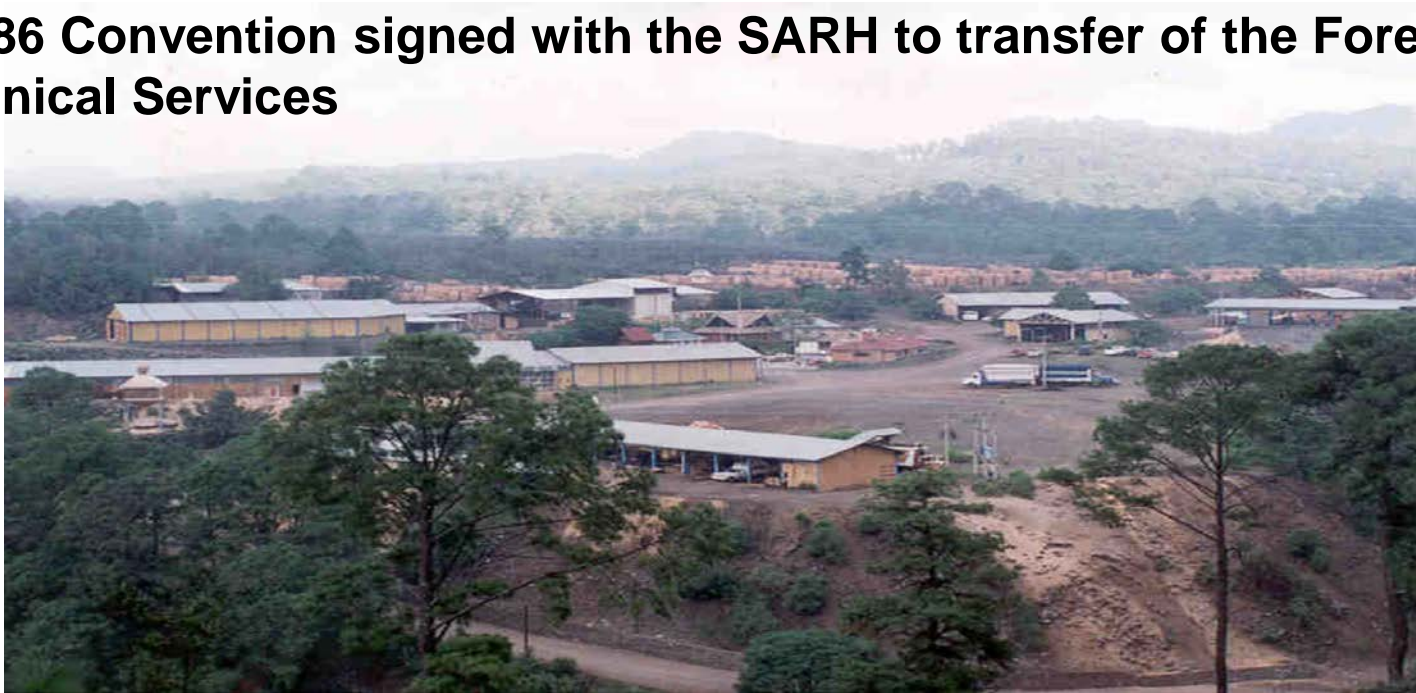
Total: 18,138 hectares





Business Development Background

- Since 1981 organization starts with no capital or equipment.
- They took advantage of 18,000 m³ V.T.A., creating 120 jobs.
- Appropriation of the logging production process, sawmill installed in 1983 taking advantage of 40,000 m³, reaching 230 jobs.
- Forest National Merit Award in 1984
- 1986 Convention signed with the SARH to transfer of the Forest Technical Services





Land Management Policies

- ❖ **Administrative tasks set asides from social and agrarian ones**
- ❖ **Building social capital and training of technical staff**
- ❖ **Adopting an integrated resource management approach to maintain territorial integrity, having the General Assembly as the highest authority and taking into account the traditional forms of government and organization of the Community**
- ❖ **Jobs for registered community members and their children**
- ❖ **Diversification of the production**
- ❖ **Reinvestment of profits**
- ❖ **Accountable and transparent management of resources**
- ❖ **Incorporating technological aspects and caring for social aspects**
- ❖ **Greater value added**
- ❖ **Formal and informal training and education for registered community members and their children**



Organigram

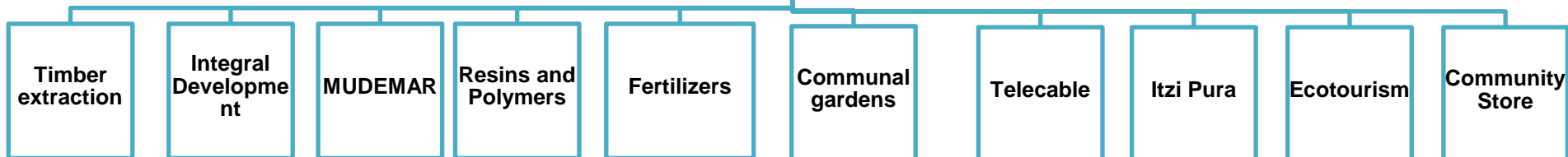


General Assembly

Community Board

Commission for Communal Goods

Supervisory Board





Role of different actors

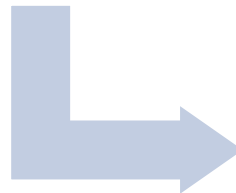
General Assembly of registered citizens ("comuneros")

- Highest authority of the Community
- Analyzes, reviews and approves the various reports of the other authorities and managers
- Authorizes the request for support to the different units
- Reviews the financial status of the enterprises, authorizes financial reports, and the distribution of economic benefits to the comuneros



Community authorities (Commission for Community goods and Supervisory Board)

- Political, social and agrarian community representation
- Supervise the finances, administration and operations of the different Companies
- Make suggestions to the Assembly to fill management positions



Corporate managements

- Business Operation
- Attention to fiscal and administrative aspects
- Revision of indicators
- Propose improvements and investments



New mode of operation for companies

- **Manager and administration jobs given depending on applicant's competence**
- **Result-Based Management**
- **Attention given to competitiveness indicators**
 - **Job creation**
 - **Profitability and utility**
 - **Use coefficients**
- **Administrative, economic and financial independence**
- **Separate accounts/accountability**
- **Managers' direct responsibility engaged before Internal Control, Communal Authorities and the General Assembly**



CADENA DE VALOR DEL BOSQUE en la Comunidad Indígena de Nuevo San Juan Parangaricutiro, Mich.



BOSQUE NATURAL
Proveedor de Materia
Prima, los Serv. Tecs. los
proporcionan comuneros



ABASTECIMIENTO
Derribo, extracción y
carga de productos
forestales



TRANSPORTE
Transporte de materia
prima de monte a
patio



ASERRADERO
Obtención de
madera aserrada



**FABRICA DE
MUEBLES**
Producción y
comercialización de
productos
terminados



COMERCIALIZACIÓN
Parte de la Madera se
comercializa al
mercado Nacional



ESTUFA DE SECADO
La madera que se
utilizará en la Fábrica
se envía las Estufas
de secado

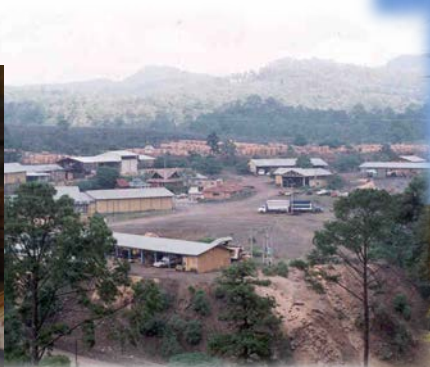


PATIO DE SECADO
Secado al aire libre
de la madera
aserrada



Commercialized products

Itzipura
AGUA DE MANANTIAL



COMUNIDAD INDIGENA
de Nuevo San Juan
Parangaricutiro, Mich.





Economical Activities





Landscape Management and Biodiversity Conservation





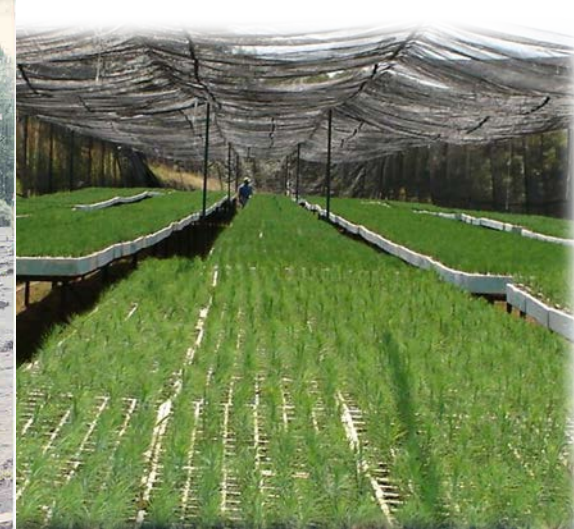
Identity and Cultural Values



*Nuevo San Juan Parangaricutiro
Michoacán*

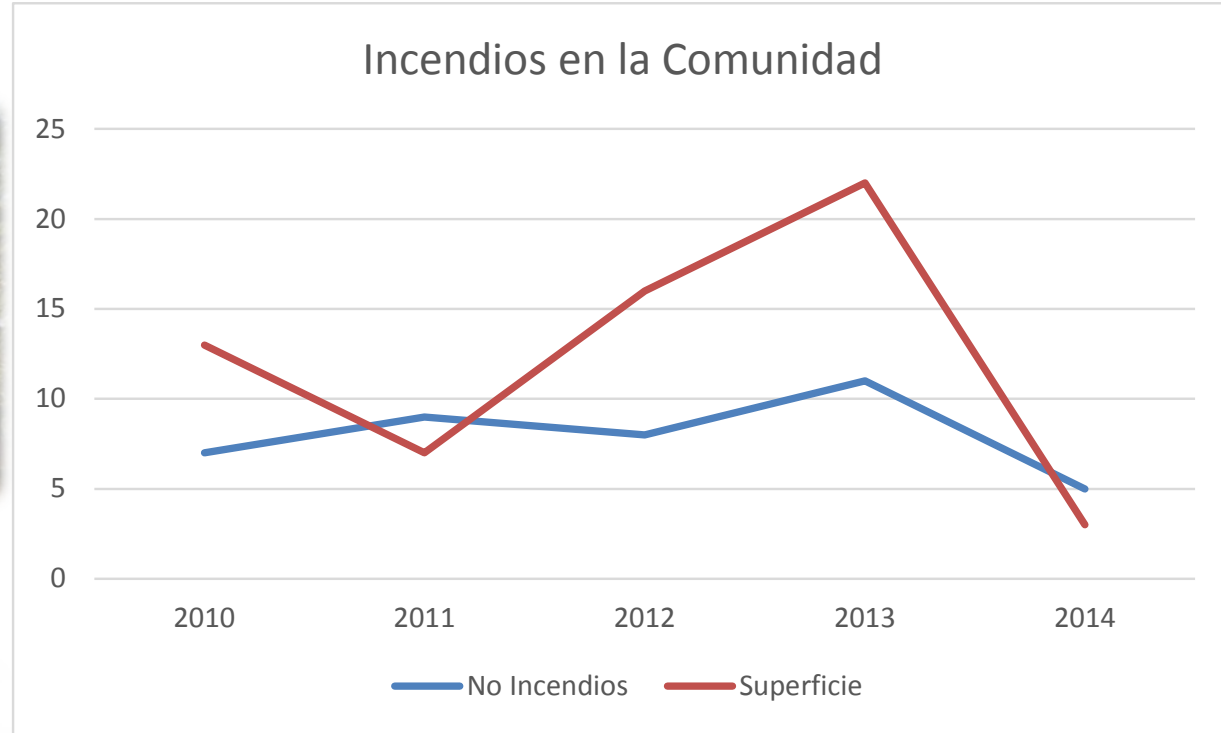


Actions in benefit of the forest





Actions in benefit of the forest



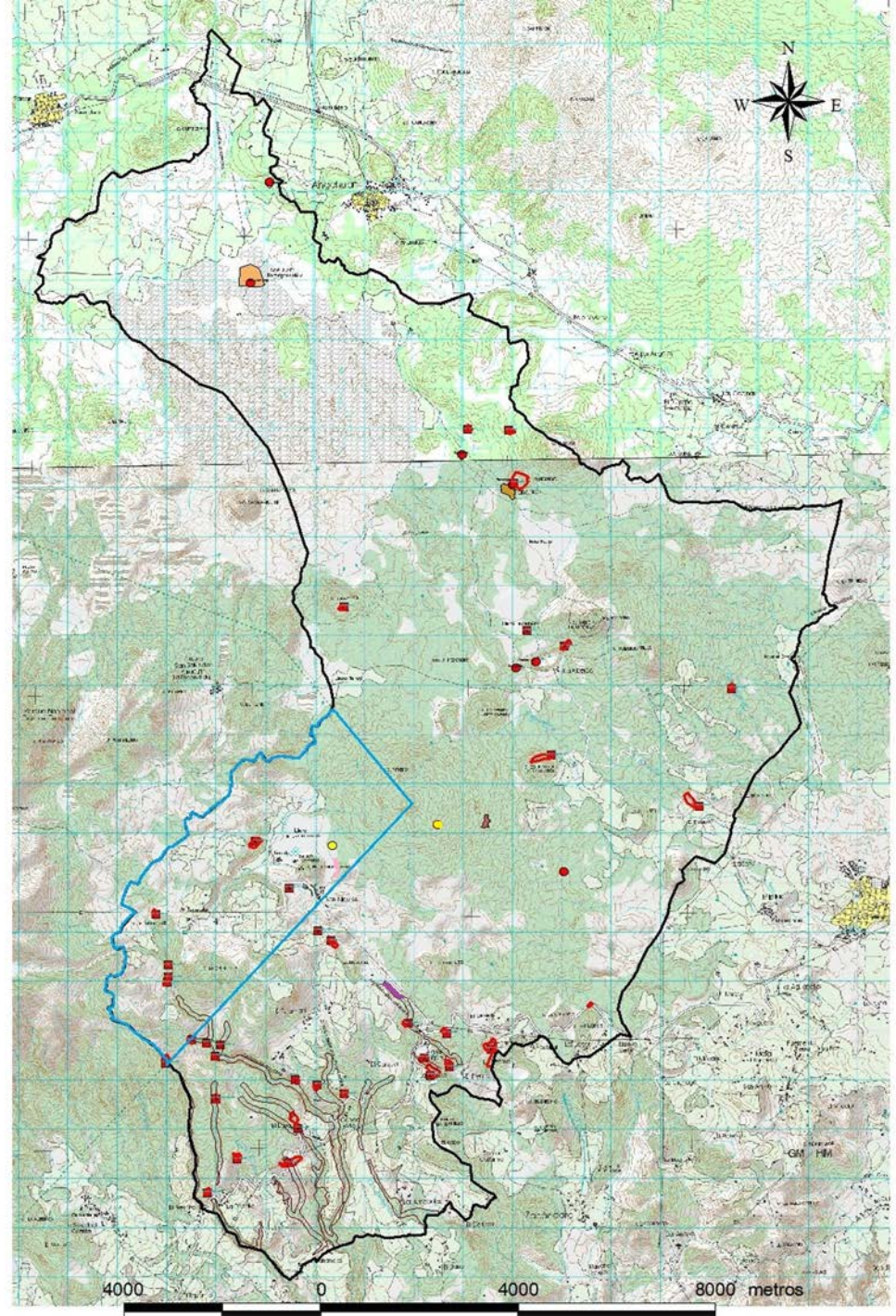
Only 0.55% of the community forest areas have been impacted by fire over the five years (40 fires).

Landscape Management Tools

Plano HCVF

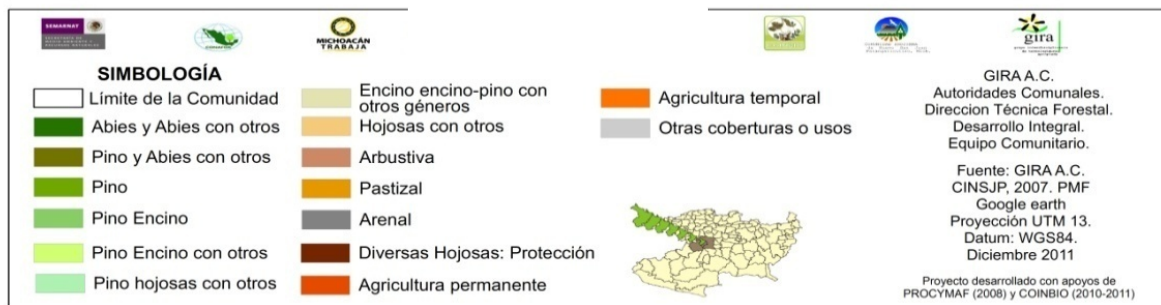
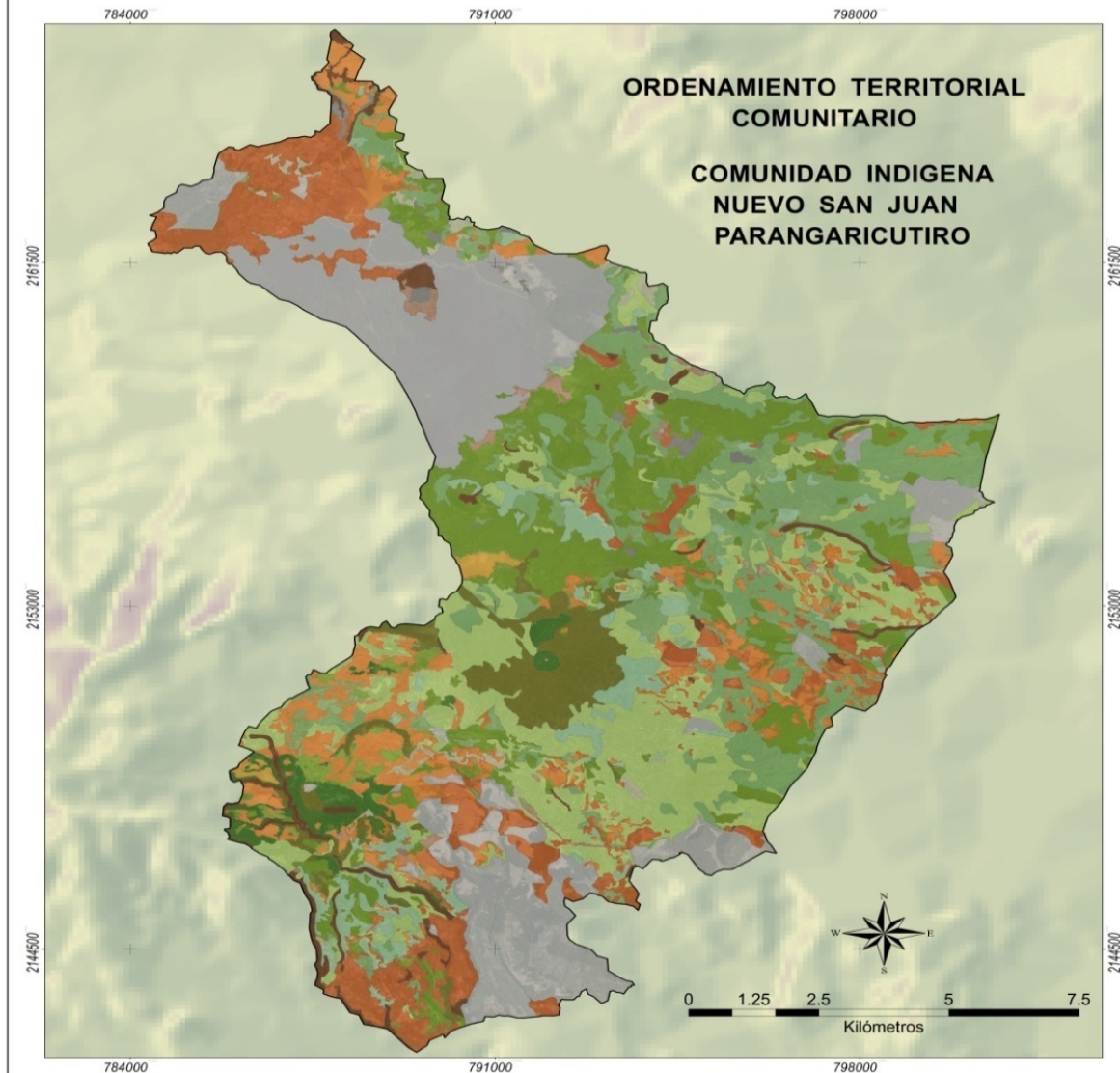
- Protected Area for Flora and Fauna
- Springs
- Protection Areas.
- Protection Areas for Specific Species
- Areas of Cultural Interest
- Relict forest
- Mountain Cloud Forest
- Protection Areas for Specific Species
- Protection Area for the Rattlesnake

Total superficie
1,617.00 has.



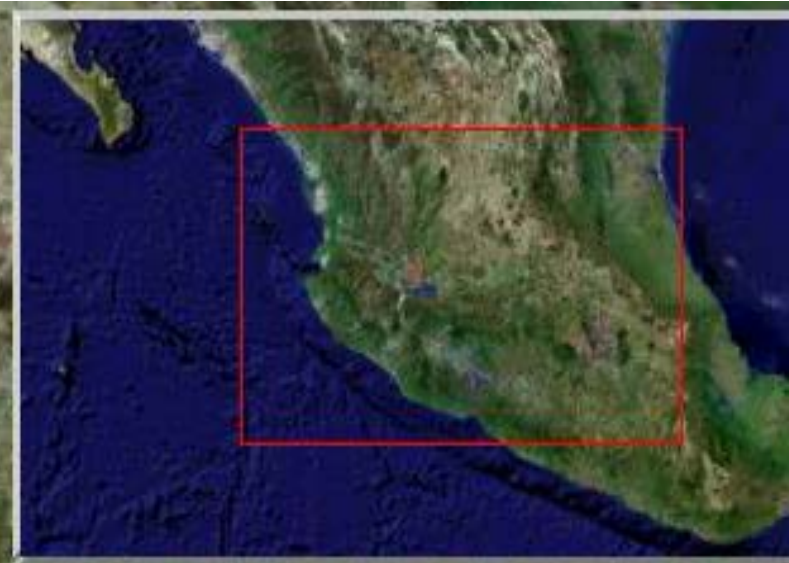
Landscape Management Tools

- Community status
- Community Land Planning
- Forest Management Program
- Technical Study for the Justification of Resin
- Management Plan UMA
- Management Plan for the Wildlife Protection Area

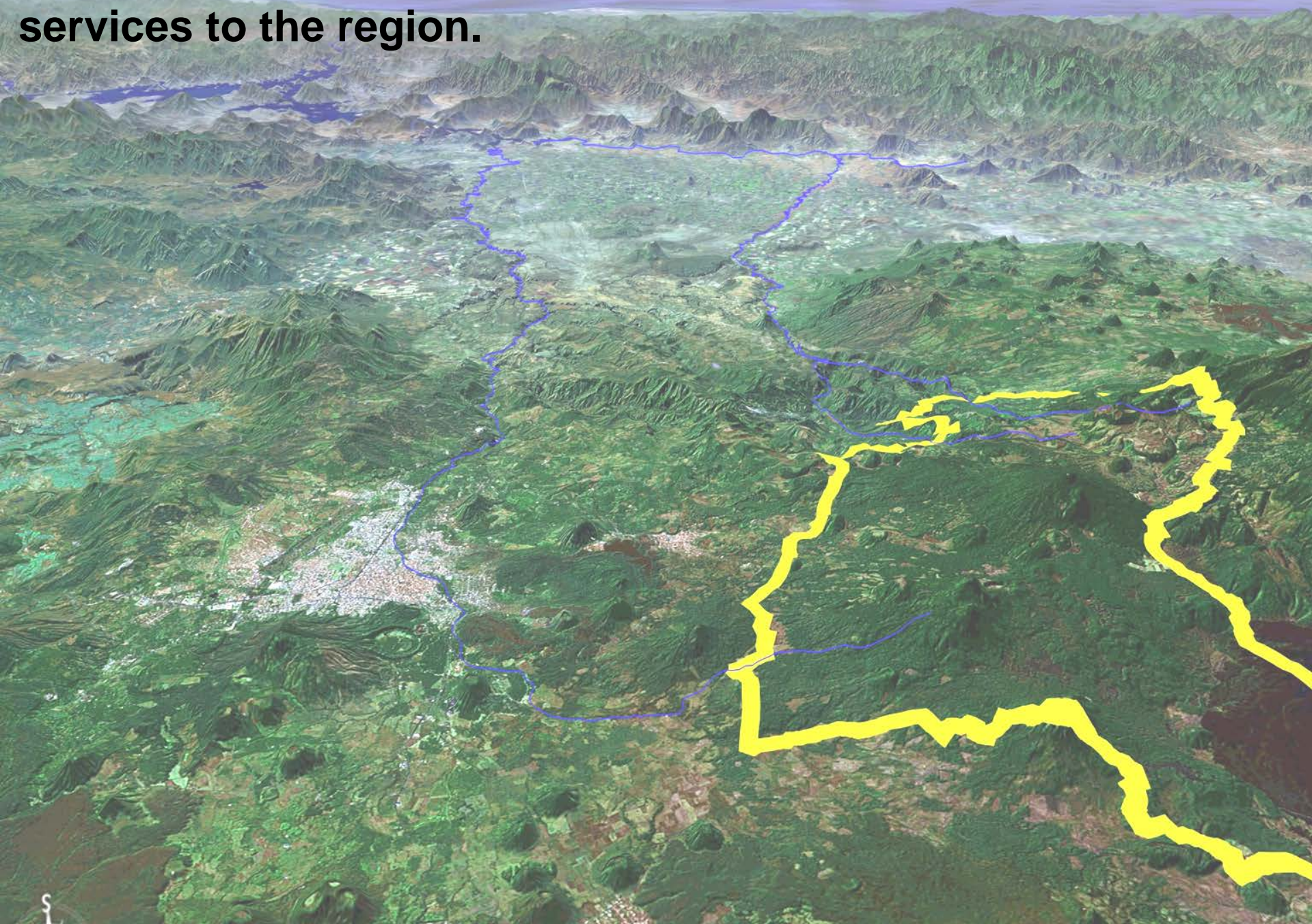


Regional environment

The territory of the Community forms part of the biological corridor Transversal Neovolcanic which links Colima Volcanoes, the Sierra del Tigre, Tancitaro Peak and other places of great ecological importance and biodiversity.

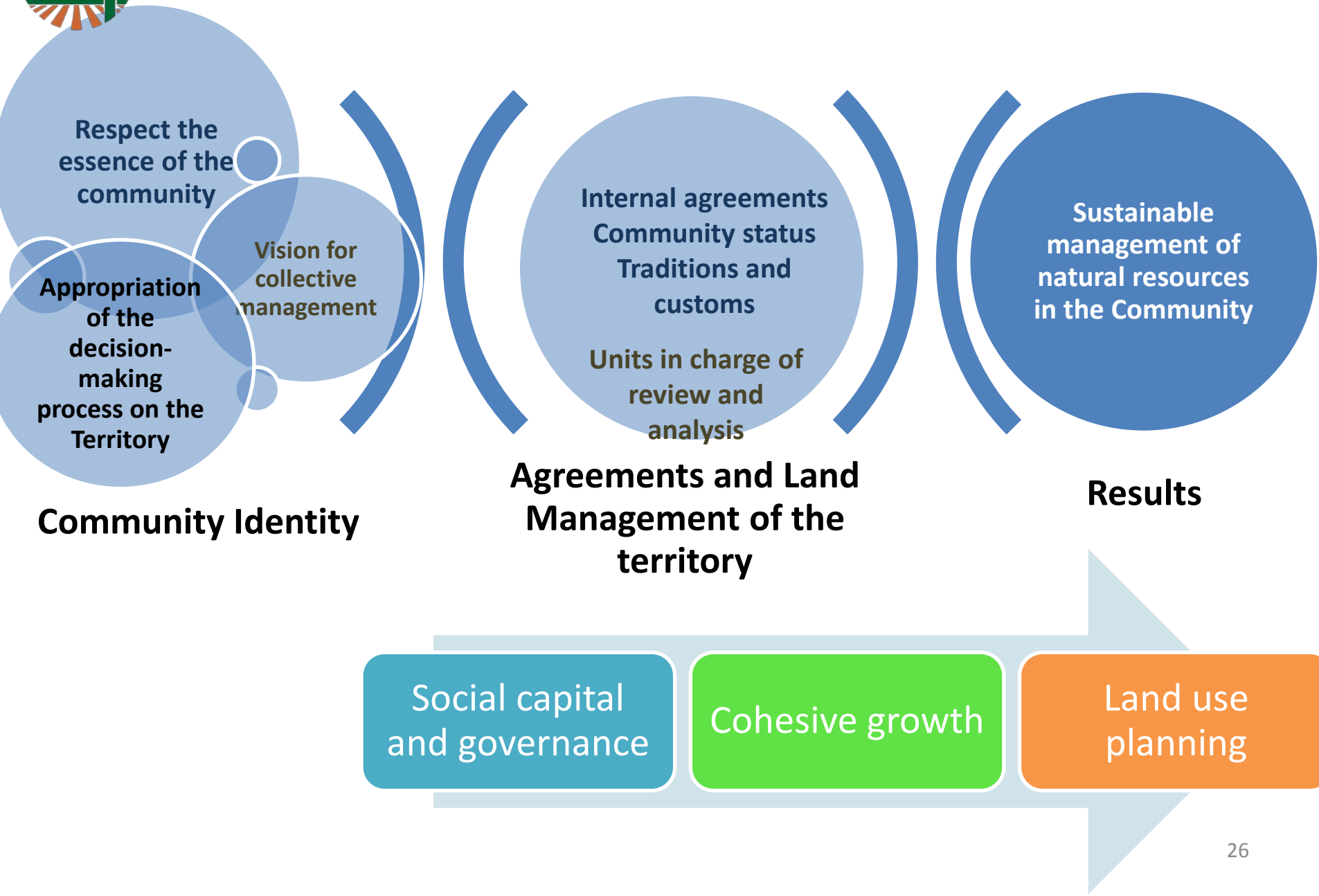


Community Forests provide important environmental services to the region.





RELEVANT ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT





Lessons learned

- **Need for community institutional strengthening**
- **Forest Indigenous Communities and *Ejidos* can become agents of their own development**
- **All sectors are important, therefore specific support projects should be developed for each sector - through consensus, divisions will be reduced**
- **Must have an interest in maintaining organizational integration (i.e. employment and territorial integrity)**
- **Strengthening of dialogue institutions, based on the Traditional Government of Indigenous Communities (Cultural Identity)**
- **Integral management, diversification of strategic activities, as well as increasing the added value**
- **The administrative management should be transparent: separation from social, political and agricultural aspects is essential**



- **Management capacity**
- **Inclusion of youth groups and women (Social safeguards)**
- **Challenge to become more competitive, improve product quality and be more productive**
- **Business overview**
- **Development processes are based on long-term goals**
- **Continue with the Forest Management Certification FSC to address environmental, economic and social aspects**
- **Sharing experiences with agrarian centers in the state, the country or abroad has allowed us to identify strengths and weaknesses, and develop strategies to focus on**
- **Feasibility and transgenerational ownership**