

Forest Land Tenure and Community Forestry in Mexico

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Evolution of forest tenure in Mexico

Colonial times (after 1521...)

Who are the owners of forests in the world?

- Despoiling of land from indigenous peoples, who were concentrated near towns.
- Creation of large estates and ranches. The indigenous people served as labor, and were not owners or producers.
- All «profitable» land was in hands of the Spanish colony, under agricultural and livestock activities.

First years of Independent Mexico 1810...

- Private ownership was encouraged.
- Due to the generation of resources for the government through the collection of taxes, the communal land practically disappeared.
- The concentration of land in property of a few owners peaked. 830 landowners had 90% of rural property.
- Production systems were inefficient and usually bad business.

Evolution of forest tenure in Mexico (2)

After Mexican Revolution 1910...

- Encourage small property, dissolution of estates and ranches.
- Restitution of land to peasants and recognition of land rights for indigenous people.
- Limits were set to private property, up to 1,500 hectares (adjusted according land productivity).
- 1917 Political Constitution:
 - The *ejidos* are common plots, inalienable and exploited only by communities while they remain undivided.
 - Establishes the legal basis for settling estates. The **land reform process began.**

Evolution of forest tenure in Mexico (3)

Some obstacles found in the way

- Inalienability constrained financial mechanisms.
- Difficult to reach economies of scale.
- Poor development of land markets and linked markets in the rural sector.
- Constraints to allow associations between *ejidos*/communities and private investors.
- Lack of land titles for parcels individually used in common lands.

Evolution of forest tenure in Mexico (3)

Agrarian Reform 1992...

- Land distribution concludes.
- Ratify the constitutional status of the *ejido* and community.
- Does not allow the concentration of land in estates;
- Enables and sets limits for trade associations.
- **Allows individual titling of land within *ejidos* and communities, of non forest land.**
- Starts regulation process of land tenure rights.

Basic changes in Forest Land Tenure

- 1992. Publication of the Agrarian Law.
- 1994. Voluntary program to provide legal certainty, issuing certificates and deeds titles for common use of land and parcels.
- Advance of PROCEDE:
 - Total number of common ownerships in the country 31,201
 - Certified common ownerships : 28,757 (92.1%)

Ejidos and Forest Communities

Before 1992

- Indivisible
- Limited possible partnerships

After 1992

- Land can be deed, but NOT forest and jungles
- Commercial partnership opportunities, that allow exceeding the limits of private property.

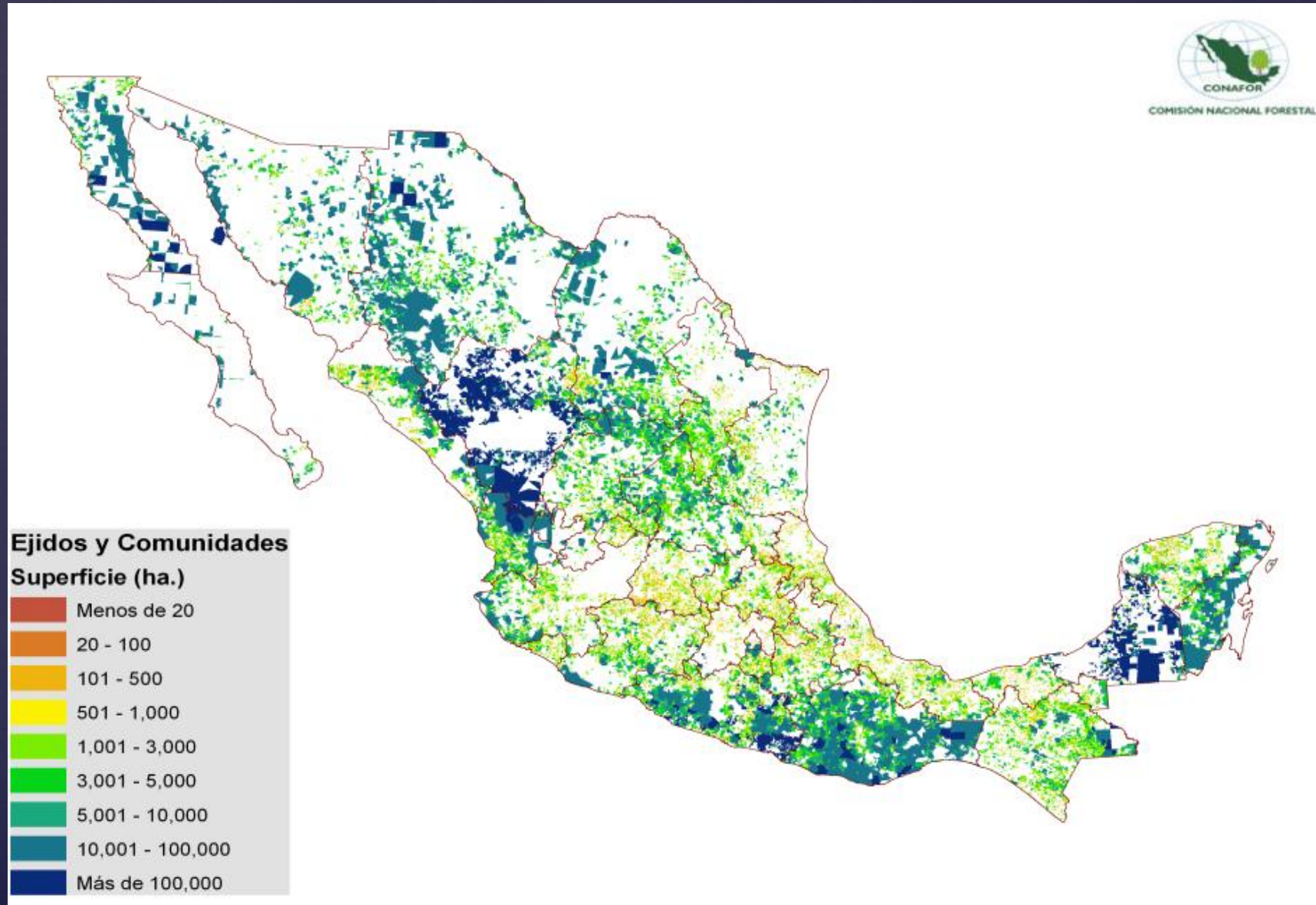
- Ejidatarios and comuneros have rights for land
- Decisions on land are taken in the highest body, the Assembly

Note. Forest area in woods and jungles owned by *ejidos* 32,355,028 ha, which represent almost 50% of forested area.

Some results from the agrarian reform in 1992

- Land market did not grow as expected.
- Only 0.3% agrarian communities dissolved to sell land
- Community members did not show willingness to sell land
- Community members sold land mostly to other community members.
- Use of communal land increased during the first years but decreased after a wide range of good and bad experiences.
- Despite financial mechanisms were developed lack of capacities, technical knowledge and organization slow the development of financial markets in the rural sector.

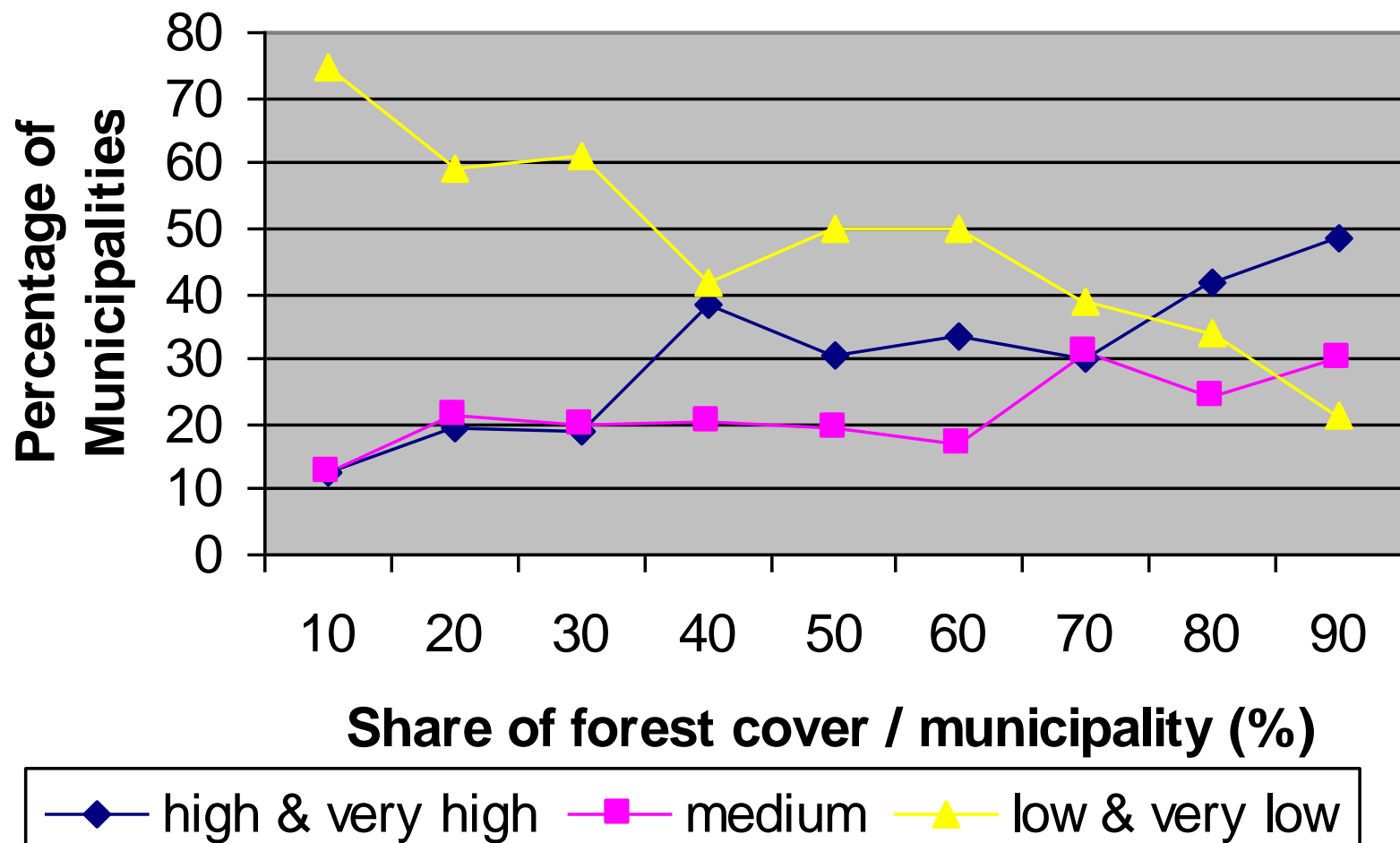
Where are the rural communities located in Mexico?



Community Forestry in México

- Mexico is considered worldwide as the country with more progress in community forestry.
- Community forestry is a model of forest resource management where communities have property rights well defined over their lands and usufruct; source of income from the sustainable exploitation of their natural resources.
- Community Forest Management is characterized by the proper use of the natural environment, sustainable management of natural resources, seeking the common good of the community and social equity.

Poverty in Forest Communities



How many communities with forest exist in Mexico?

Superficie forestal (ha)	Número de ejidos y comunidades con superficie forestal de bosques y selvas.	Superficie total (ha)	%
Menor de 20 ha	962	8,344	0.02 %
De 21 a 100 ha	1,843	106,478	0.29 %
De 101 a 500 ha	4,511	1,185,592	3.22 %
De 501 a 1,000 ha	2,427	1,755,409	4.76 %
De 1,001 a 5,000 ha	4,544	10,285,281	27.90 %
De 5,001 a 10,000 ha	884	6,152,963	16.69 %
De 10,001 a 100,000 ha	675	14,733,903	39.97 %
Mayor a 100,000 ha	13	2,632,364	7.14 %
Total	15,859	36,860,334	100 %

Around 1800 Forest Community Enterprises with Timber Harvest Permits exist in Mexico.

Forest Community Enterprises (FCE)

Provide enhanced service to the *ejidos* and forest communities, which are classified as follows:

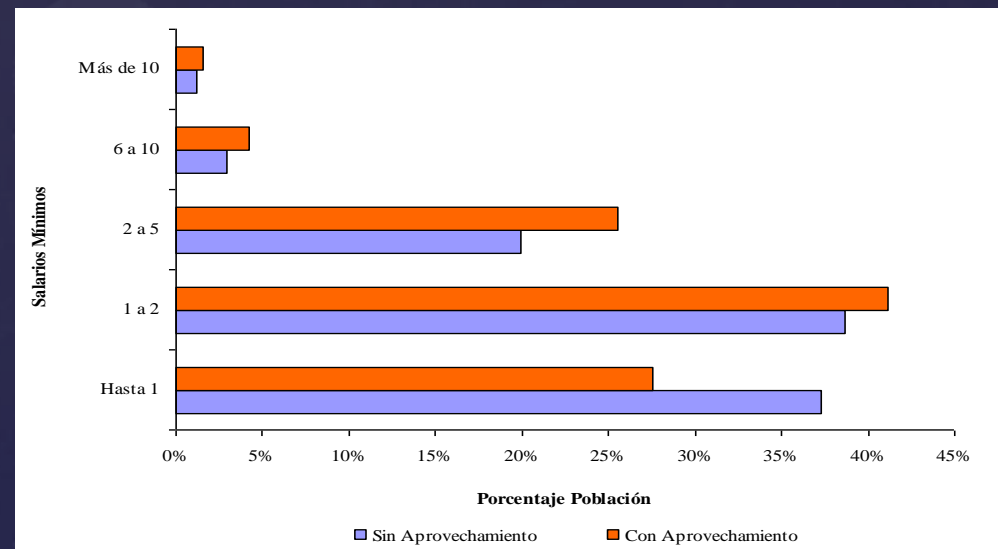
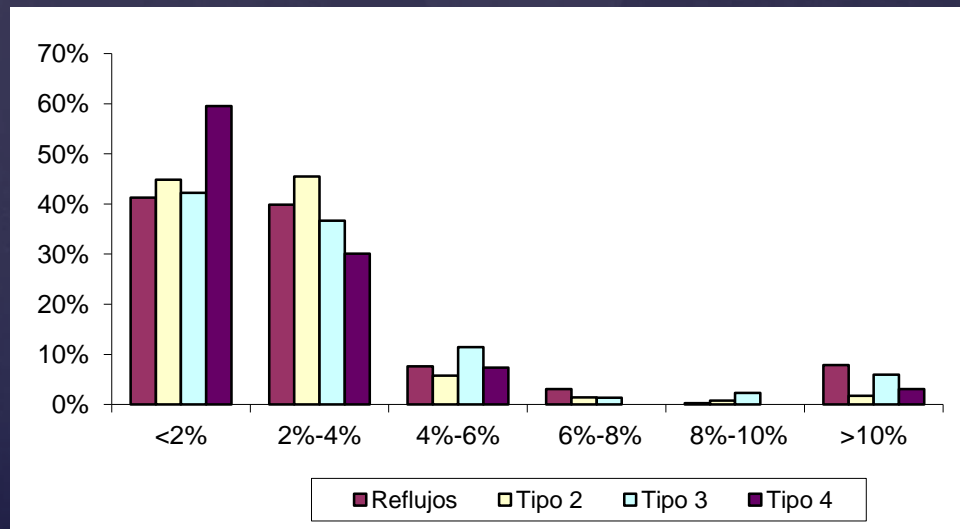
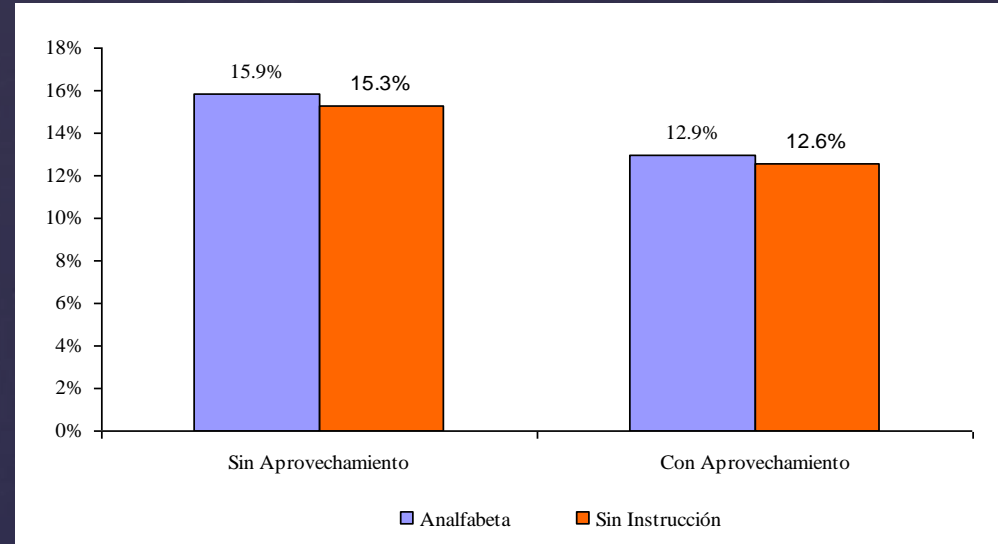
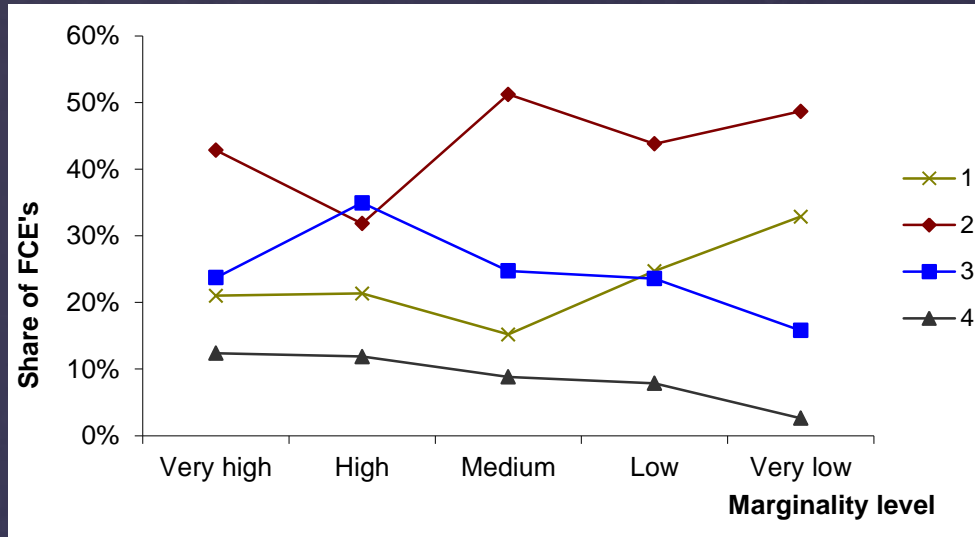
Type I. Potential producers: owners or holders of forest land with sustainable commercial production skills who are currently not using the land due to the lack of an authorized management or conservation plan or program.

Type II. Producers who sell standing timber: owners or occupiers of premises licensed for the use of goods and services, where a third party performs the use of goods or services under a sales contract or participates in one or more phases of the production process.

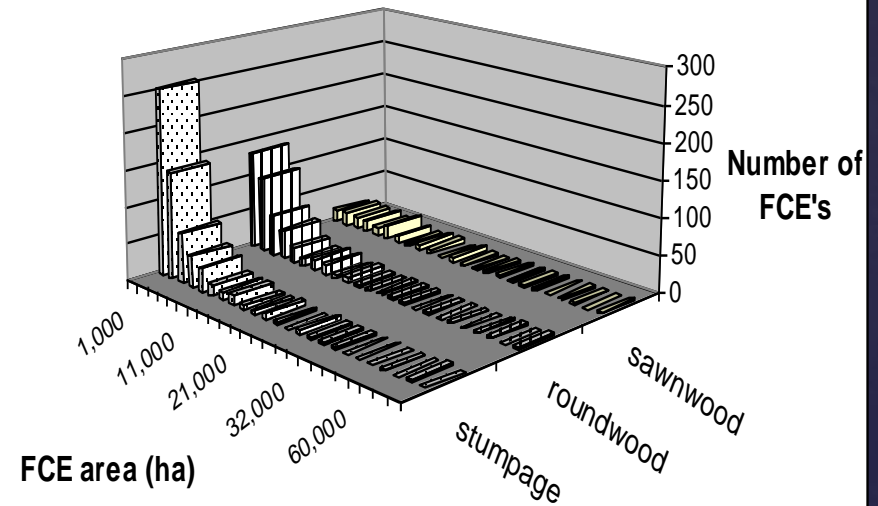
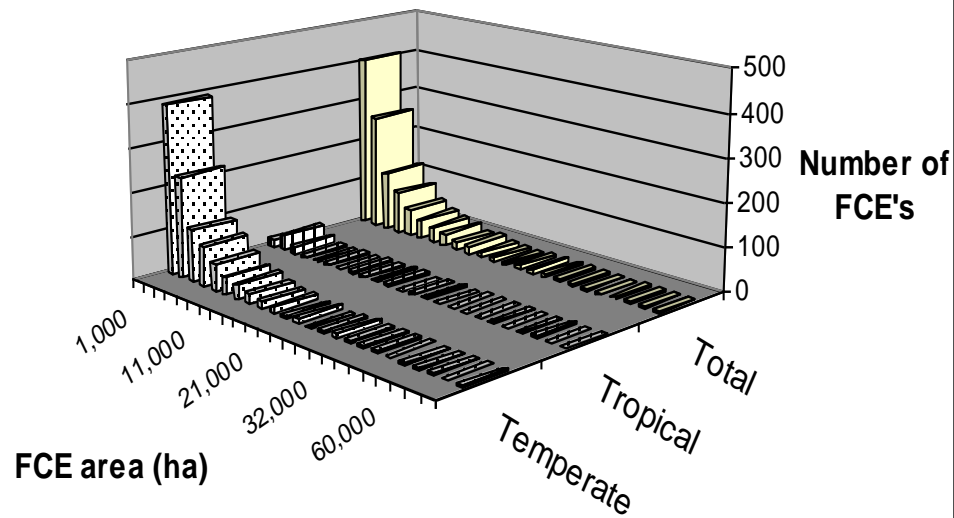
Type III. Producers of raw forest material: owners or occupiers of premises licensed for the use of goods and services directly involved in the process of production and marketing of commodities.

Type IV. Producers capable of processing and marketing: producers of raw forest material who possess the infrastructure to transform goods and services into finished products for direct marketing.

Some characteristics of FCE



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Some characteristics of FCE

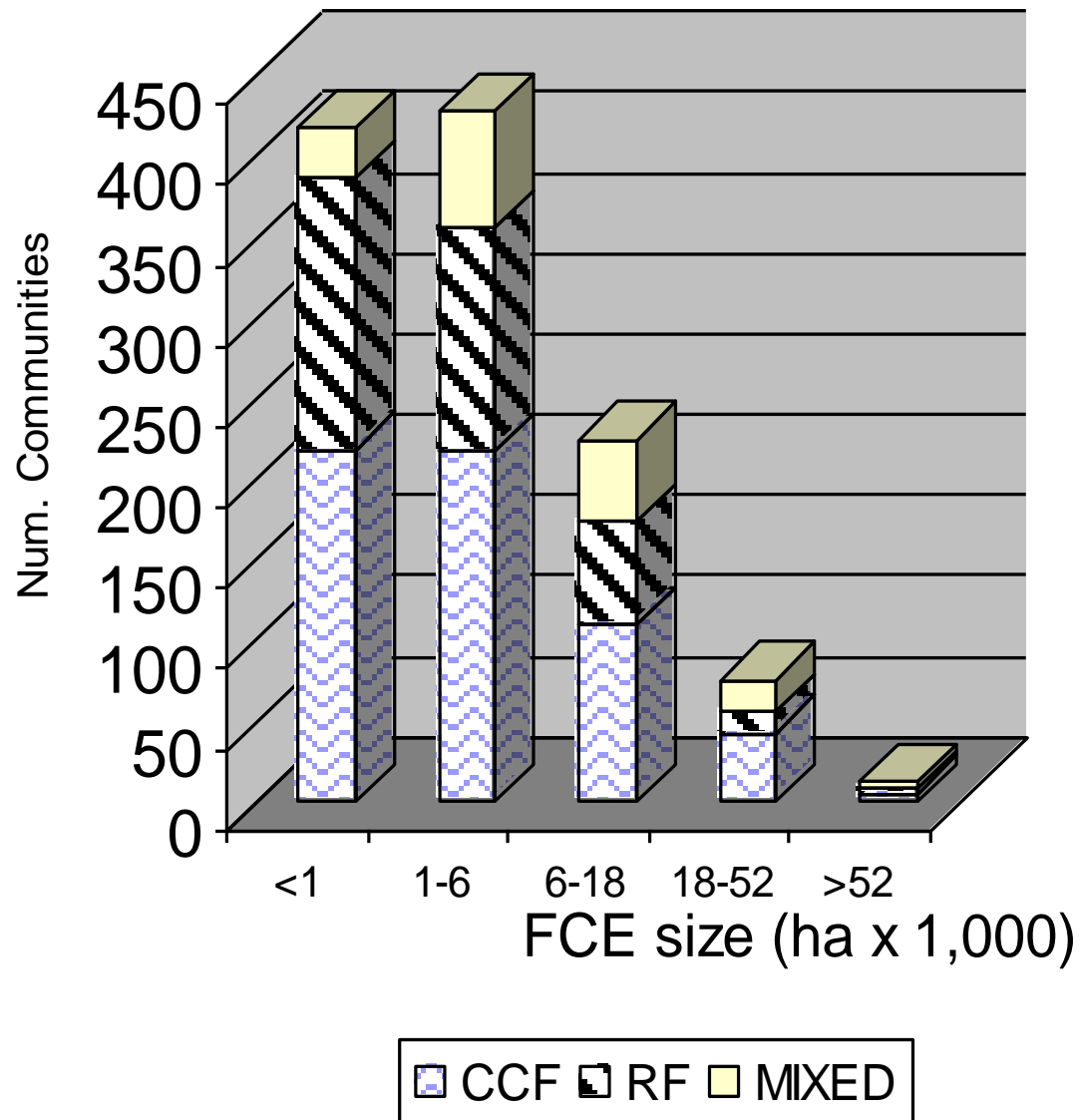
Horizontal Integration:

- 1% Organized to saw.
- 5% Organized to use specialized equipment.
- 42% Organized to share some costs (road construction and maintenance)

Vertical Integration:

- 52% Sells standing timber.
- 35% Sells logs
- 13% Sells lumber

Some characteristics of FCE (timber management)



Why are not all FCE fully successful ?

- Local participation is not easy to achieve
- Institutional arrangements jeopardize particular interests.
- There is not enough leadership and capacity building.
- The proper governance structure depends on many factors, economic, social and environmental.

Programs and actions that address the Community Forestry Management in Mexico

Community Forestry Program (PROCYMAF)

- Sustainable Development Project for the Rural and Indigenous
- Communities of the Semi-Arid North-West (PRODESNOS)
- Community-based Forestry Development Project in the Southern States (DECOFOS)
- Program for the Promotion of Social Organization, Planning, Regional Development and Forestry .
- Early Operation of REDD Initiatives

Strategic Axis of Operation

1. Strengthening of Community Social Capital

- Communities and *ejidos*
- Representative members
- Community Forestry Enterprises
- Regional Associations and Forest State Associations

2. Alignment of CONAFOR Programs

- PROCYMAF, PRODESNOS, COINBIO, DECOFOS
- PRODEFOR, PRODEPLAN, PSA
- Reforestation

Strategic Axis of Operation

3. Targeting

Concentration of activities in well defined territorial units such as:

- REDD: Coastal Watershed Jalisco, Lacandona Rainforest, Cutzamala-La Marquesa, Yucatan Peninsula
- GEF-RA-UNDP-CONAFOR Project
- Mixed funds for environmental services and promising areas for the payment of environmental services



Strategic Axis of Operation

4. Expansion and maintenance of forest cover under sustainable management

- Increase of the forest cover under sustainable management
- Development of watershed forest projects, biological corridors, etc.

5. Local community capacity building

- Community Technical Training
- Partnerships with local universities, Intercultural, Social
- Organization to train local technicians.
- Strengthening of technical units of communities and their organizations

Strategic Axis of Operation

6. Attention to the Regional Forest Organizations

- Support to operating and functioning Regional Foresters Associations
- Attention to the well established regional organizations

7. Greater engagement with the Coordination of Conservation and Restoration

- Restoration Studies
- Establishment of Seed Production Units
- Training
- Exchanges between organizations for the prevention and firefighting

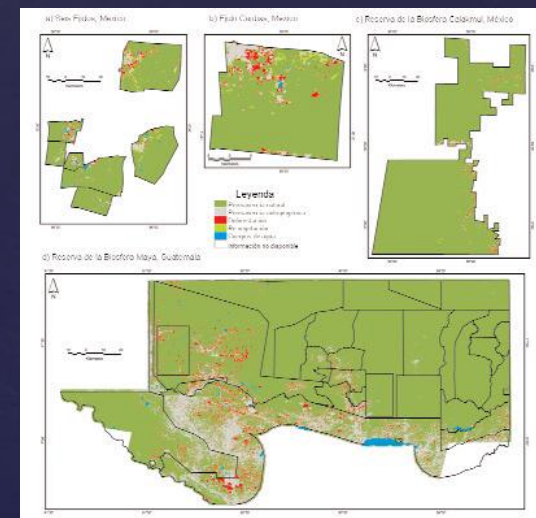
Level of organization of *ejidos* and communities served by Community Forestry Management

Level of organization of <i>ejidos</i> and communities supported in between 2007-2010						
Year	Supported <i>Ejidos</i> /Communities		Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV
2007	Total	381	141	124	42	74
2008	Total	540	223	160	56	101
2009	Total	752	353	142	117	140
2010	Total	856	440	154	156	106
Total 2007-2010		1,650	881	399	200	170
Actual level of organization		1,650	796	374	253	227

Achievements of Community Forestry in Mexico

According to Bray et al (2007)
Community Forestry in Mexico has
allowed to:

1. Protect forests and biodiversity.
2. Contribute to reduce poverty.
3. Support the governance of the country's forest regions.



Thank you!