

## Context and challenges

With the creation of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve (CBR), on the 23rd of May 1989 and the subsequent establishment of the municipality of Calakmul, on the 1st of January 1997, an intense governance process began among the different community actors, municipal governments, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations and the CBR Directorate, among others, in order to promote the appropriate design of territorial planning instruments both for the protection of the region's natural resources and for their sustainable use. Today, there are several territorial planning instruments that are constantly updated, in which the Selva Maya Programme has been supporting its development for several years. Although significant progress has been

made in terms of environmental categorization of the territory and development planning, the main current challenge is the implementation, articulation and use of instruments for managing the use and exploitation of resources. In this sense, and in cooperation with the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), the intervention of the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Selva Maya Project focused on strengthening the processes of participatory environmental planning of the territory or strategic planning with implications for the sustainable use of natural resources, in order to have available criteria, guidelines or standards that guide long-term sustainable practices in the different productive sectors of the region.

## Beneficiaries

Directly, the last three municipal administrations of Calakmul, through technical advice on the implementation of consultation processes and the development of municipal planning instruments. Indirectly, 28 thousand inhabitants of the municipality, recipients of local public policy.



Calakmul now has territorial planning instruments in force that are used by representatives of various productive sectors to increase the knowledge of local society and the receptivity to sustainable practices:

- ◆ Great Vision Development Program for the Municipality of Calakmul [PDGV (2013-2040)]; its approach marked a reference as an articulating instrument for subsequent planning processes.
- ◆ Municipal Development Plans (2012-2015, 2015-2018, 2018-2021) of a participatory nature, highlighting environmental, territorial and gender approaches.
- ◆ Study on Limits of Acceptable Change (SLAC), which provides scientific criteria to establish load capacities and for avoiding impairments of natural attractions by intensive tourism.
- ◆ Management strategies for Areas Voluntarily Designated for Conservation (ADVC), which included the re-planning of 10 ejido communities, adding more than 92 thousand hectares in protected areas.

## Impacts



## Municipal development planning with an environmental focus

Advising the municipal government on the preparation of its Municipal Development Plans (MDP) contributed to improve the process of conducting public affairs. Instruments were provided to conduct comprehensive, democratic and inclusive citizen consultations and to position strategic environmental and social inclusion topics; to this end, the use of binding planning instruments that were socialized and included into the MDPs was promoted.

**Enabling factors:** Municipal governance with a sustainable approach allowed broad processes of participation in designing territorial planning instruments.

## Long-term development planning

A joint initiative between the City Council of Calakmul, the Directorate of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve and the Project was the PDGV (2013-2040). This regulatory instrument is a roadmap for compliance with long-term development indicators. Its strength lies in being a product derived from a broad exercise of participation in which all the communities of the municipality have been consulted.

**Enabling factors:** The culture of democratic participation of local communities allowed generating this planning instrument.

## Planning based on limits of acceptable change for tourism

A pioneering study on tourist carrying capacity inside and outside the CBR (SLAC) allowed the definition of planning criteria for better access and tourist use of destinations and providing important recommendations for the better use of tourism resources.

**Enabling factors:** The wide participation of nature tourism service providers and the knowledge of the CONANP Park Rangers, enabled the first load capacity measurement of the visiting destinations in Calakmul.

## Territorial planning linked to the development of regulatory norms for land-use change

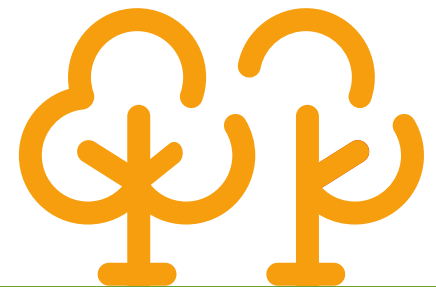
The Project's contribution to updating and disseminating the Calakmul Territorial Ecological Management Programme (TEMP), the only binding planning instrument at all government levels, allowed the regulation and reduction of land-use change. The TEMP together with the CBR Management Plan are the strongest natural resource protection instruments in the region.

**Enabling factors:** The cooperation of various government actors and civil society ensured the validity of this territorial planning instrument.

## Voluntarily community planning for conservation

Models of voluntarily participation in conservation can contribute to more effective management for the protection and sustainable use of natural resources. In this regard, ten communities decided to establish their ejido lands as Areas Voluntarily Designated for Conservation (ADVC) to promote the protection and connectivity of the CBR.

**Enabling factors:** The large areas of land ownership by ejidatarios and the culture of care of natural resources have allowed large portions of land to contribute voluntarily to conservation.



The different blocks represent elaborated or updated planning instruments that provide references for the access and organized use of land and water in the municipality of Calakmul. There is a specific or legally binding relationship between each planning instrument. Non-binding but technically important instruments are the PDGV (3), the SLAC (5) and the ADVC Management Strategies (4); the binding ones are the TEMP (2) and the MDP (1). The relevance lies in the fact that they have been adopted by local authorities and actors in order to facilitate dialogue between them.

## Story

“On behalf of the Municipal President and President of the Municipal Council for Sustainable Rural Development, we thank the Selva Maya Programme for all the efforts made by GIZ and its counterpart CONANP. The support to the Municipal Council and to the municipal development planning processes of recent years has been of great benefit. In the last three municipal development plans, GIZ has accompanied and advised the consultation forums until the final preparation of the document. The results are visible in the micro-regions, the



communities and the current representatives of the Municipal Council, the heirs of the work initiated by GIZ practically 10 years ago. The results of the Selva Maya Programme will be part of the memory of the Municipal Council. It is also to remember what has already been done in the production of the planning instruments, which are already designed and available to be used as a working tool, mainly in the Council Assembly, which follows up the planning of the municipal development. We are grateful for the valuable support of the Selva Maya Programme.”

**José Contreras, Director of Planning and Social Development, Municipality of Calakmul.**

