

PROMOTION OF TERRITORIAL PLANNING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF POPTÚN WITH A FOCUS ON PROTECTED AREAS, GUATEMALA

» Context and challenges

TL2 GT

The management of planning and territorial organization at the municipal level contributes to the process of coordination and organization to implement the country's priorities and its strategic development goals. In the case of the municipality of Poptún in the department of Petén, 61% of its territory is located in the protected area Complex III. For this reason, land use planning requires special attention in order to protect its natural resources, which are threatened by strong pressures such as land-use change, derived mainly from agricultural activities. Additionally, the budget allocation linked to municipal strategic planning poses an additional challenge. In this context, the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Selva Maya Project accompanied the

participatory process of elaborating the Municipal Development and Territorial Planning Plan (MDTPP) of Poptún as an instrument of territorial management to link the land use with the priorities and objectives of the municipality. This process is composed of four phases: 1) generation of conditions, 2) territorial diagnosis and analysis, 3) territorial planning and 4) management and follow-up. Within this planning framework, the Project strengthened the technical capacities of municipal staff and provided advice for the strengthening of other spaces that promote the appropriation, coordination and implementation of this instrument, such as the Municipal Directorate of Territorial Planning and the Municipal Territorial Planning Board.

Beneficiaries

Directly, the technical personnel and decision-makers of the municipality of Poptún through technical advice on the development of this instrument of municipal territorial planning and indirectly to the general population of Poptún.



Impacts

- ◆ As an institutionalized instrument in the municipality, a Municipal Development and Territorial Planning Plan (MDTPP) is in place.
- ◆ The Municipal Directorate of Territorial Planning is technically and legally strengthened and in operation, which allows an improvement in the implementation of the Instrument.
- ◆ Through the creation of the Municipal Territorial Planning Board, integrated by the municipal units and governing institutions, issues and problems related to territorial planning are addressed.
- ◆ The internal operating guidelines of the MDTPP that regulate the implementation of the Plan are approved and applied.
- ◆ With the approval of the MDTPP, complementary planning instruments have been approved, such as: municipal territorial analysis, municipal land use plan and municipal road classification map.



Creation of framework conditions for territorial planning

Since 2012, the preparation of the Municipal Development and Territorial Planning Plan as well as the creation of the Municipal Territorial Planning Board have been approved on the basis of the Municipal Development Council Act. The Project provided the Council with technical advice on the phases of management of the Territorial Planning Plan, laying the foundations for the planning of the territorial planning of the municipality. It thus created an enabling scenario for rapprochement between municipal authorities, government institutions and civil society represented in the Municipal Territorial Planning Board.

Enabling factors: The involvement of the members of the municipal council and the main stakeholders from the outset was relevant to strengthening the process by facilitating the sharing of a common vision for the development of the municipality.

Consultation and institutionalization of the MDTPP

As part of the institutionalization of the MDTPP of Poptún, the Project facilitated meetings and consultation workshops with representatives of different sectors of society to inform them about the instrument, its application, the regulatory framework for action, as well as benefits, implications and corresponding penalties contemplated in its regulations. This allowed generating a discussion and reflection that resulted in collecting complementary information, and thus strengthened the document. Once socialized and agreed with representatives of different sectors of society, the MDTPP was approved by the municipal council.

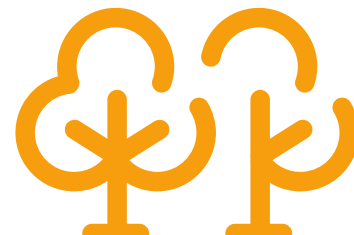
Enabling factors: Having the MDTPP of Poptún properly agreed with different stakeholders and approved by the municipal council facilitates its articulation and implementation by the different municipal administrations. On the other hand, the promotion of citizen participation committed to changes and development in the territory, ensures the sustainability of the process.



Elaboration of the Municipal Development and Territorial Planning Plan (MDTPP) and its regulations

For the development of the four phases contemplated in the development of the MDTPP, the Project provided technical assistance through different participatory workshops; using the "METAPLAN" methodology and through detonating questions, actions, interventions and problems were identified as well as possibilities that should be considered in the definition of territorial development strategies. For the formulation of the regulation, the Project supported the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN) in the process through consultation and revision workshops, in which the involvement of the different sectors in the Municipal Territorial Planning Board was achieved and roles and responsibilities were defined.

Enabling factors: The joint participation of civil society and government institutions contributed to increase the level of communication and coordination for the development and elaboration of the MDTPP and its regulations, as it had the technical, legal and logistic resources necessary for its preparation.



The technical approach with the areas of municipal planning (1), allowed to approach different stakeholders, who, by consensus, determined as a priority the elaboration of a planning instrument (2) that linked the visions and aspirations of development of the municipality with the needs of the population; the socialization of the instrument (3), through the active involvement of the different actors, allowed to integrate and strengthen vacuums, prior to its approval and publication.

Story

"I visualize the Selva Maya as a set of natural elements that form an essential and systemic whole for the existence of Guatemalans, Mexicans and Belizeans. The natural elements of this forest ensure the sustainability of future generations living in this region. For my family and myself, the sustainability and existence of the Selva Maya means that our children and grandchildren can have access to resources such as water, which is essential for our existence. The conservation, research and management of resources, such as soil, must be a State strategy in each of the countries that make up the Selva Maya."



The territorial development planning process carried out by the municipalities is one of the activities that directly creates the best conditions for a management of the territory oriented towards social, economic and environmental protection development. The future of the Selva Maya depends on the position of each governments with regard to the development of their countries, which is why technical and financial support of international cooperation is key to promote articulated territorial management processes."

Noemia Hernández. Territorial planning specialist of the Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN).

