

# Adaptation Committee

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## Adaptation Committee Expert meeting on livelihoods and economic diversification

7–8 September 2015

### Short case study

<b>Title of the case study</b>	
<b>Lead organization</b>	National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC)
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<b>Broad context</b>	<p>This project is part of a GEF project that aims to implement adaptation measures to climate change in coastal wetlands of the Gulf of Mexico. Among the adaptation measures proposed for two of the pilot sites of the larger project, is the establishment of Management Units for Wildlife Conservation (UMAs). These UMAs are sites where alternative production schemes compatible with conservation of wildlife are promoted. Each UMA must have a management plan approved by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT).</p> <p>For this project, the sustainable use of mangroves through the establishment of UMAs is being implemented in two coastal wetlands of the Gulf of Mexico: the lagoon of Alvarado in the state of Veracruz and Carmen-Pajonal-Machona lagoon system in the state of Tabasco. In these wetlands the population activities are centered on fishing, although the lagoons are heavily polluted, and as a consequence some fishermen of the area are cutting down the mangrove to pursue ranching and farming.</p> <p>The four mangrove species present in Mexico are included in the NOM- 059- SEMARNAT 2015, which is the official standard that defines the species that are under some protection scheme. These four species are classified as “threatened” according to this NOM, and therefore its use is severely restricted. However, the establishment of UMAs for the sustainable use of mangrove is allowed.</p> <p>This project considers the sustainable use of mangrove through UMAs as a measure for substantial changes to some locations, because it allows them to diversify their economic activities while preserving the mangroves. It is hoped that this scheme will help the sustainable use of mangrove conservation, and will be a reproducible measure, in other parts of the wetland, and even other wetlands in the country with similar characteristics and problems.</p>



<b>In which country/ies or region was the activity carried out?</b>	The project is being implemented in two coastal wetlands of the Gulf of Mexico: the lagoon of Alvarado in the state of Veracruz and Carmen-Pajonal-Machona lagoon system in the state of Tabasco, Mexico.
<b>Who were the stakeholders involved?</b>	<p>International Agencies: GEF (Global Environmental Facility), World Bank.</p> <p>Federal agencies: SEMARNAT (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources), INECC (National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change), IMTA (Mexican Institute of Water Technology), CONAGUA (National Water Commission)</p> <p>State Agencies: State Ministries of Environment from the states of Tabasco and Veracruz</p> <p>Local NGOs: Pronatura-Veracruz, Bacab</p> <p>Local communities: Ejido "El Tarachi", Veracruz, "El Golpe, Tabasco.</p>
<b>Who were the key collaborating institutions/organizations?</b>	<p>International Agencies: GEF (Global Environmental Facility), World Bank.</p> <p>Federal agencies: SEMARNAT (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources), INECC (National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change), IMTA (Mexican Institute of Water Technology), CONAGUA (National Water Commission)</p>
<b>What actions were taken?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Management plan including the characterization of the site</li> <li>- UMA register to the corresponding SEMARNAT agency</li> <li>- Application to the SEMARNAT for the definition of sustainable harvesting rates</li> <li>- Local community training</li> </ul>
<b>Key outcomes and lessons learned</b>	<p>Key outcomes:</p> <p>Local people aware of the importance of mangrove and environmental services.</p> <p>Local people aware of the negative impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Aware and trained in handling UMA locals.</p> <p>Lessons learned:</p> <p>Importance of involving villagers in adaptation measures.</p> <p>Importance of coordination between federal, state and municipal institutions.</p>