



Easy Mexico's transition towards a low-emissions green growth path

Mexico

July 2012

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I. Introduction

Although Mexico is a developing country it is also one of the main world economies and an important regional reference within Latin-America. Its leadership is reflected in the climate change action plan undertaken during the current administration and through its results: four National Communications to the UNFCCC, a National GHG Inventory under constant review, as well as several climate change mitigation and adaptation studies ranging from vulnerability assessments to implementation barrier analyses for specific projects and actions.

At the COP15, in Copenhagen, Mexico acquired the voluntary non-binding commitment to reduce its GHG emissions by 30% by 2020 (equivalent to 261 MtCO₂e) with respect to its projected BAU scenario. At present Mexico has a project portfolio with a reduction potential of 130 MtCO₂e by 2020, which represents 50% of the committed target.

It is also important to mention that both at a national and international level, President Felipe Calderon has had a clear leadership in advancing the climate change agenda, moving beyond the traditional mitigation and adaptation approaches and

Quick facts

Zone	National territory
Time Frame	Currently - 2020
Theme	National strategy on low-carbon growth
Agency	National Institute of Ecology
Website	www.ine.gob.mx

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into the discourse of a complete transformation of the economy in terms of low-carbon growth and the opportunities associated with poverty alleviation and global competitiveness that can be achieved for a country like Mexico. Firstly, he has exerted international leadership in the context of the UNFCCC, both during and after Cancun, and has been doing so in the context of the G20 Mexican Presidency. At the national level he has also laid the foundations for Mexico's green growth vision towards 2020, through the creation and implementation of a strategy of low-carbon growth, coordinated across all Secretariats through the Office of the President, in order to create and implement a low-carbon development programme.

Although there has been a great advance by SEMARNAT and the National Institute of Ecology (INE) in this area, there is still much to be done. The Mexican government considers of great importance to continue the work on the identification and analysis of GHG reduction opportunities, the design of public policy to capture the potential emissions reduction identified, the institutional strengthening needed to facilitate the execution and the monitoring of plans and projects, as well as the formulation and set in motion of a national strategy on low-carbon growth. Areas of opportunity identified in this plan include institutional strengthening at all levels, cooperation schemes at national, sub-national and international level in the design of low-emission growth strategies, technology, knowledge and good practices transfer, the design of mechanisms to promote participation from private sector, academic sector and organized civil society, and the consolidation of robust networks for collaboration and finance.

2. Objectives

Main:

Lay the groundwork to achieve a transition towards a green economy and a sustainable low-emission development.

Particular aims:

- Design and implementation of low-carbon development strategies, public policies and mechanisms
- Further institutional strengthening for the implementation and monitoring of the low-carbon development strategy
- Design and execution of the mechanisms and action routes to reach the GHG emission reduction goals committed by Mexico
- Creation of a national climate change adaptation strategy to reduce physical, economic and social vulnerability
- Establish the adequate national and international cooperation schemes required to enforce strategies
- Devise effective mechanisms for the transfer of technology, knowledge and good practices
- Creation and strengthening of capacities at sub-national and national levels

3. Overall strategy and opportunities identified

Stemming from the work performed at INE in recent years, the plan for a transition to a green economy is an endeavour where three aspects have been identified as crucial:



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- Institutional strengthening, capacity building and knowledge transfer
- Construction of a national strategy for the transition to a green economy and a low-emission sustainable development
- Consolidation of a technology transfer and co-operation regional network

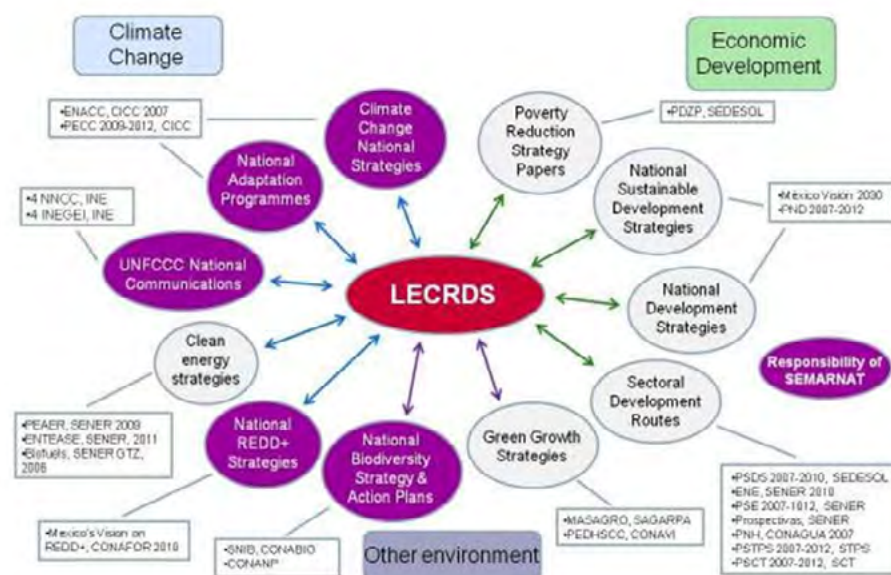
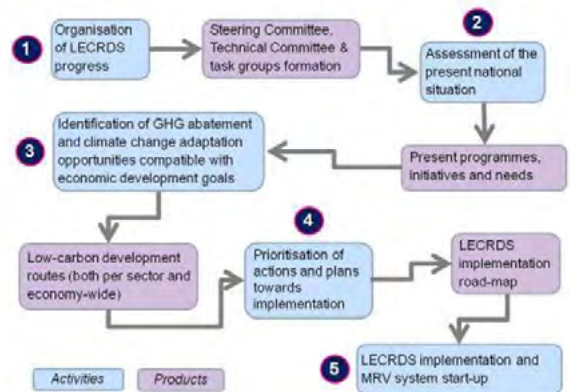
3.1 Low-carbon and climate resilient growth program

To consolidate the effort sustained to this date and to keep moving towards a green economy, INE has been working in the design of a low-emission development strategy, the Low-Carbon and Climate Resilient Growth National Programme. The objective of this programme is to establish a framework in which mitigation and adaptation actions, policies and projects can be articulated to promote the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity, low-carbon growth and sustainable development. This strategy will be a solid base to achieve a consistent and verifiable GHG emissions reduction in the long term and it will aid in the transition to a low-carbon development where jobs and investment can grow in a sustained manner, financial flows can be captured through carbon markets, and the social, economic and environmental benefits derived are maximised.

This low-carbon growth strategy will borrow elements from several existing national plans and programmes in order to incorporate the specific objectives set across sectors during the current administration (energy planning, social indicators, environmental goals, etc.).

The activities required from each of the working groups that will be established to jumpstart this initiative are included in a work plan developed recently. This work plan also includes a critical route of activities and a proposed index for the document that will serve as the cornerstone for this initiative.

Scheme of the development and implementation of a LECRDS



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