



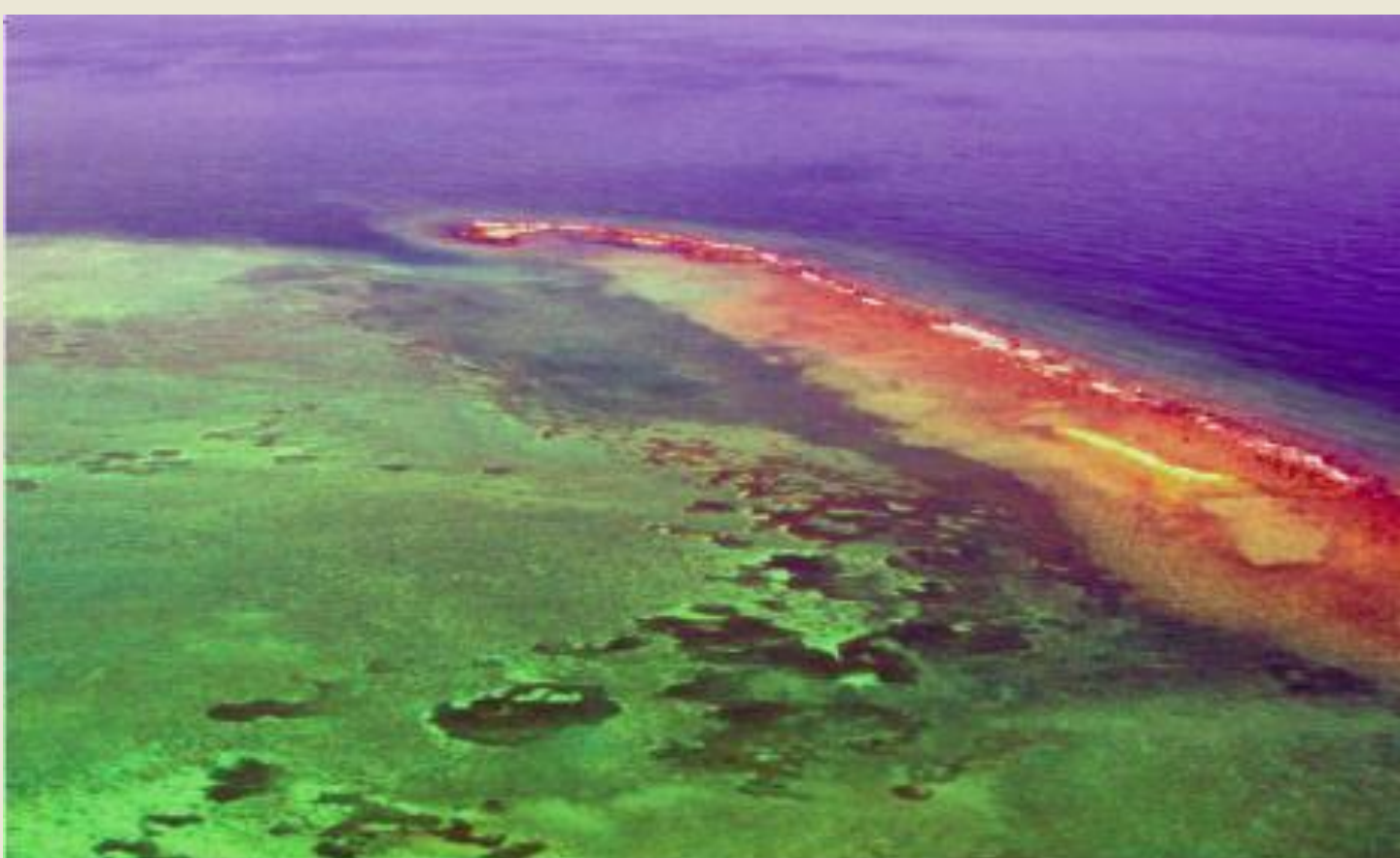
CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR PROTECTED AREAS



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Mitigation and adaptation to climate change is one of the main challenges that the Mexican society will face in the near future. In this context, CONANP joins its efforts with the Mexican Government to contribute in reducing the impacts of climate change through the development of adequate conservation policies and actions within Protected Areas. The Climate Change Strategy for Protected Areas aims to develop mitigation and adaptation strategies and actions in close collaboration with local communities, civil society and government at all levels, with which consolidate more than ten years of experience in the conservation and management of Mexico's Protected Areas.

Protect the country's ecosystems and its Protected Areas is one of the most effective strategies to mitigate climate change and its effects on the natural resources and the local population.

Climate change represents a growing threat for the natural and human capital of the country. The magnitude and speed of the climatic variations focuses us to have a better understanding of how these changes will impact human communities, ecosystems and local biodiversity, as well as a need to define clear actions for conservation and safeguarding of the goods and services these provide. In this context, and according to the strategic objectives of the National Program for Protected Areas 2007-2012, the National Commission for Protected Areas (CONANP) presents the Climate Change Strategy for Protected Areas (ECCAP).

The general objectives of the ECCAP are:

- Increase the adaptive capacity of ecosystems – and the communities that live within them– in the face of climate change.
- Contribute to mitigation of greenhouse gases and enhancement of carbon stocks.

Vision:

Preserve Mexico's natural heritage to withstand the impacts of climate change by turning Protected Areas into an effective adaptation and mitigation instrument, with the participation of a variety of stakeholders.



Climate change will impact all ecosystems worldwide, from coral reefs to deserts.

ECCAP Objectives:

- Facilitate a clear communication of the goals and objectives of the Special Climate Change Program, the National Protected Areas Program and the Management Plans of each Protected Area.
- Include CONANP's conservation strategies and legal instruments within the national scheme for adaptation and risk assessment in the face of climate change.
- Communicate with key stakeholders the spirit and components of the ECCAP to promote successful alliances and synergies.
- Focus institutional capacity building actions in order to preserve Protected Areas and their biodiversity under climate change scenarios and potential threats.
- Position Protected Areas within national and international climate change mitigation policies and mechanisms.



Substantial Components

Mitigation

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and degradation of protected areas and their buffer zones.
- Increase carbon sinks in protected areas.

Adaptation

- Reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and human communities in Protected Areas against current and potential impacts of climate change.
- Increase ecosystems resilience to uphold their overall functions, biodiversity, and environmental goods and services to improve the welfare of local communities.



Increased temperatures and changes to the water cycle can modify species distribution patterns and water availability in the country. Therefore, conservation of forest ecosystems and hydrological basins must be a national priority.



Support Components

Knowledge

- Promote research focused in understanding the relationships between climate, ecosystems and society, and integrate these findings in the implementation strategy of mitigation and adaptation measures of protected areas.

Culture and communication

- Distribute clear and precise information about climate change's main consequences and the developed mitigation and adaptation strategies in protected areas and surrounding areas to help promote an active participation of all institutions and public players.

Capacity development and technical assistance

- Guarantee the appropriate implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies in protected areas through capacity development of the National Commission of Protected Areas, as well as technical and financial assistance of other social, government and non-government organizations.



Cross-cutting Component

Public policy, institutional cooperation and cross-cutting linkage

- Promote the development of an integrated framework of public policy and support instruments to help consolidate and promote the significance of climate change and conservation into the country's public and institutional agenda.



Determine the impacts from climate change on the distribution patterns of priority species will be key to select the most effective management and conservation strategies.

Steps towards implementation

Establish a monitoring and follow-up system for the mitigation and adaptation strategies implemented by CONANP, provide assistance for the Regional Offices and Protected Areas to identify the most effective mitigation and adaptation measures, and determine the necessary resources to achieve the desired goals.



As part of the implementation of the ECCAP, CONANP is incorporating priority actions for climate change adaptation in Protected Areas. Regarding to mitigation, we are developing projects and initiatives for terrestrial and marine restoration as well as forest carbon sinks.

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