



# **DEVCO** Environment and Climate Week 2020

**17-21 February  
2020**

**Brussels, Belgium**





## **Environment and climate week 2020**

*Forest concessions in Guatemala: an  
example of Community management  
and governance of natural resources*



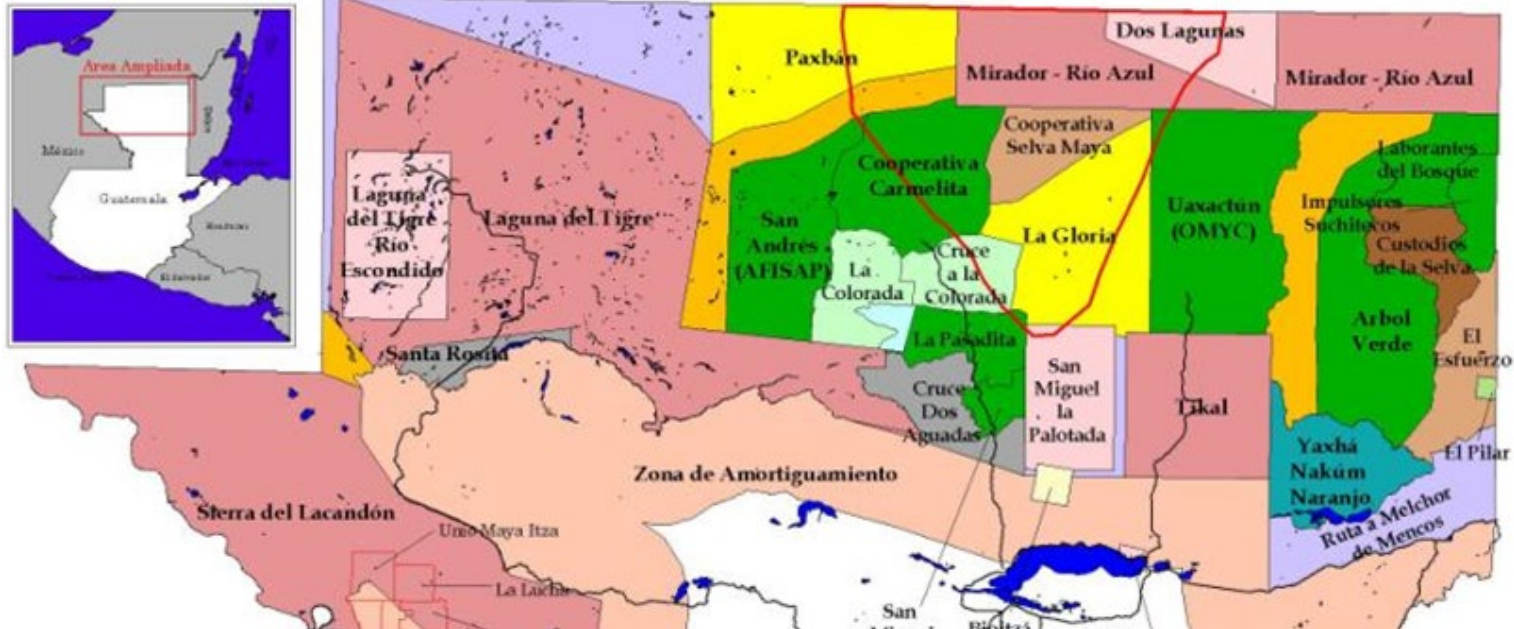


## A globe centered on the Americas, with Central America highlighted in blue. The text "Central America; ecological bridge between the North and South of the American continent" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters. A small yellow star marks the location of Guatemala, which is labeled with a white box containing the word "Guatemala". The globe shows a grid of latitude and longitude lines.

## 328 protected areas in the country

**34,2**  
**% of the country**

# ZONING OF THE MAYA BIOSPHERE RESERVE.2 113 000 has






## What is a forest concession

*It is an administrative mechanism which establishes a 25 years contract between the State and the local community organisations for rational use of natural resources and services within the Maya Biosphere Reserve.*

*Integrated and sustainable management of natural and cultural resources by the communities, generating income and benefits to the local populations.*

*Communities actions: control and surveillance, fire prevention plans, cartography, technology for forestry monitoring (drones)*








# History of concessions

*22 years after having been granted by the State.  
Outcome of the peace agreements in Guatemala.  
9 Community concessions  
500.000 ha of concessions*





# **Community achievements in forest concessions**



# FOREST PRODUCTS

Ramón



Pimienta



Chicle



Xate



Copal

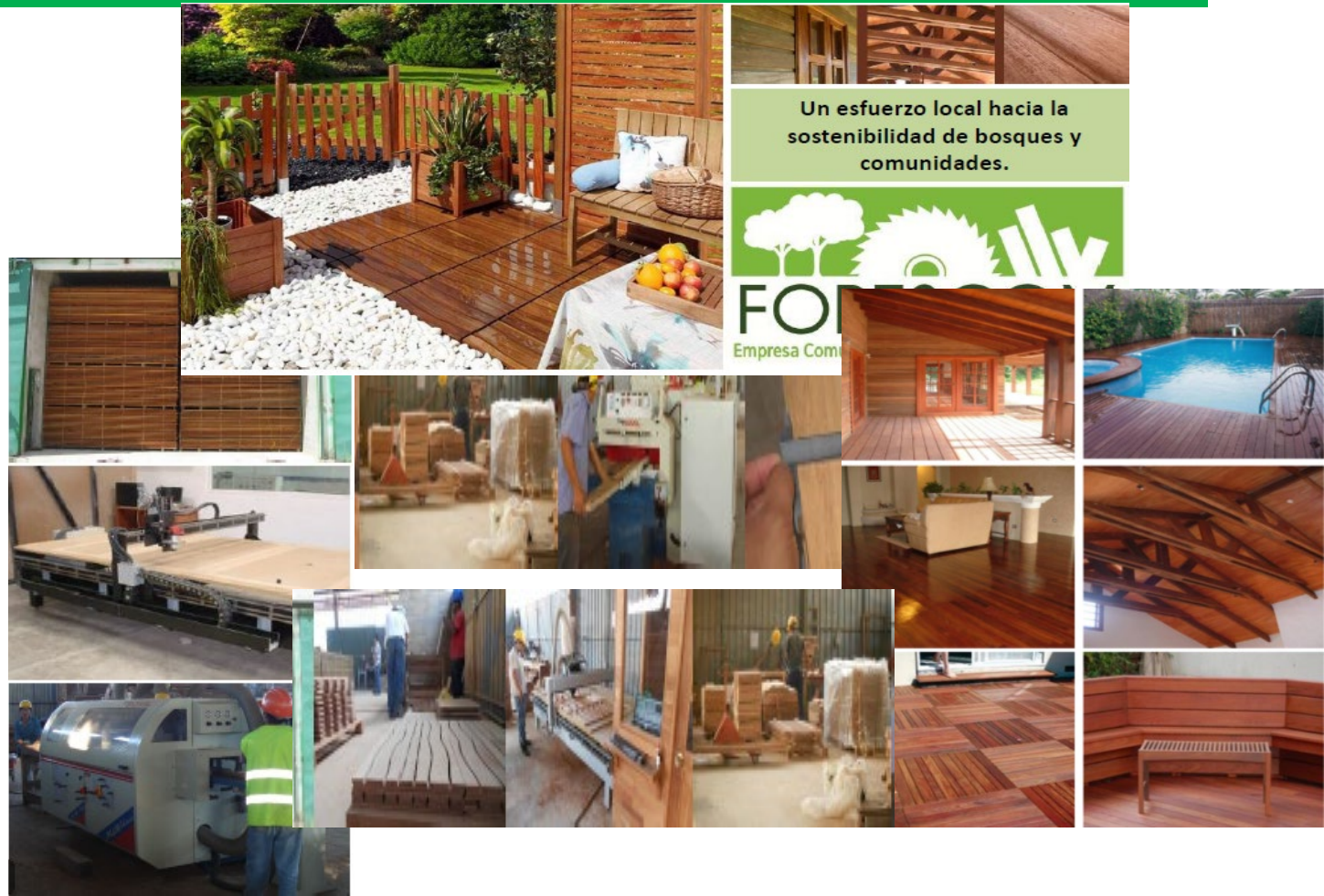


Madera





## Timber products





# Community tourism



Implementación de Estrategia de Turismo Comunitario



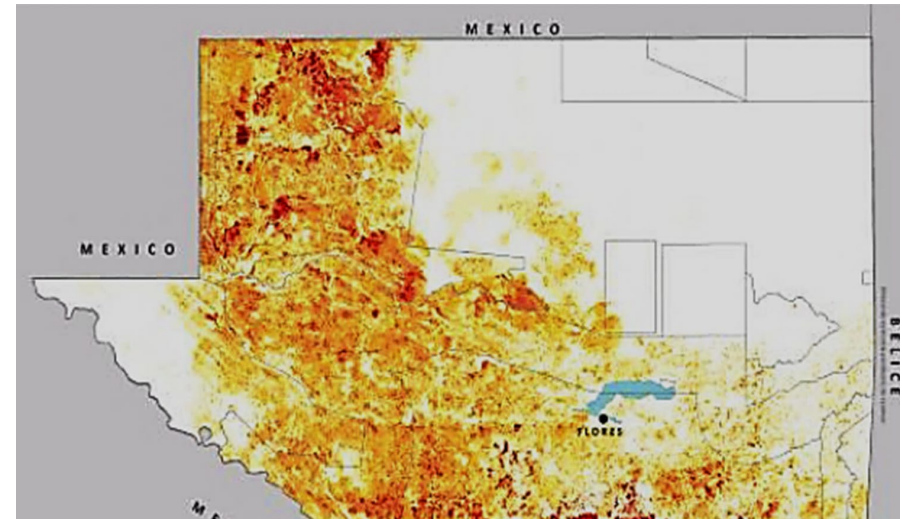




# INTEGRAL PROTECTION

***Nearly zero deforestation, (by 0,4 %), contributing to maintaining 70 % good conservation status of the BMF***

***Reduced forest fire incidence (0.8 %) in concessions***





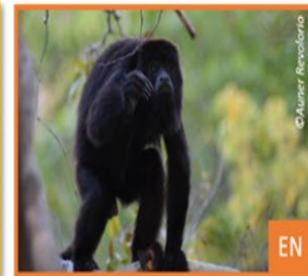
# Integral protection, fauna

3,592  
species of  
fauna and  
flora  
recorded in  
the BMF are  
present in  
concessions

Example  
jaguar 1.5  
to 11/100  
Km<sup>2</sup>



Especies amenazadas  
en Mesoamérica



Especies endémicas  
de Yucatán



En Peligro Crítico (CR)
En Peligro (EN)
Vulnerable (VU)
Casi amenazado (NT)

# Social achievements



- Salaries are above the statutory minimum.
- Taxes are generated to the State on an annual basis.
- Investment in social infrastructure.
- Capacity-building.
- Participation of young people and women has been promoted.
- Contribution to local education (scholarships, school tools, infrastructure, equipment).
- Family integration (prevent/reduce emigration)
- Continuous Community control and surveillance of the forest





## **Keys for successful conflict management**

- **Natural resources, an asset put into value for the service of the people.**
- **The benefits gained by the communities represent the main tool to avoid and prevent conflicts**
- **The conservation of the forest is in the interest of the community**
- **Concession leaders dialogue with Government institution, insisting on the benefits of the model**
- **In the concessions, permanent dialogue is in place among the various actors. In case of a major conflict, the Executive Board of the concession (formed by the community leaders) will take the lead for dialogue, involving Government institutions (CONAP)**





## **What's next??**

**Concessions are about to expire: many external interests are threatening their continuation, leading to potential conflicts**





# Potential cause of conflicts in the “Maya Biosphere Reserve”

*Invasive tourism*

*Extensive livestock farming*

*Illegal logging and marketing of timber*

*Illegal trafficking in animal and plant species*

*Drug trafficking*

*Oil industry*


*Illegal invasions of land*

*Voluntary fires*





## **Key challenges for conflict prevention**

- **The continuity of the Community model of forest management to avoid future conflicts.**
  - **Consolidation of the business model based on the integrality of forest management and its value chains.**
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Thank you!