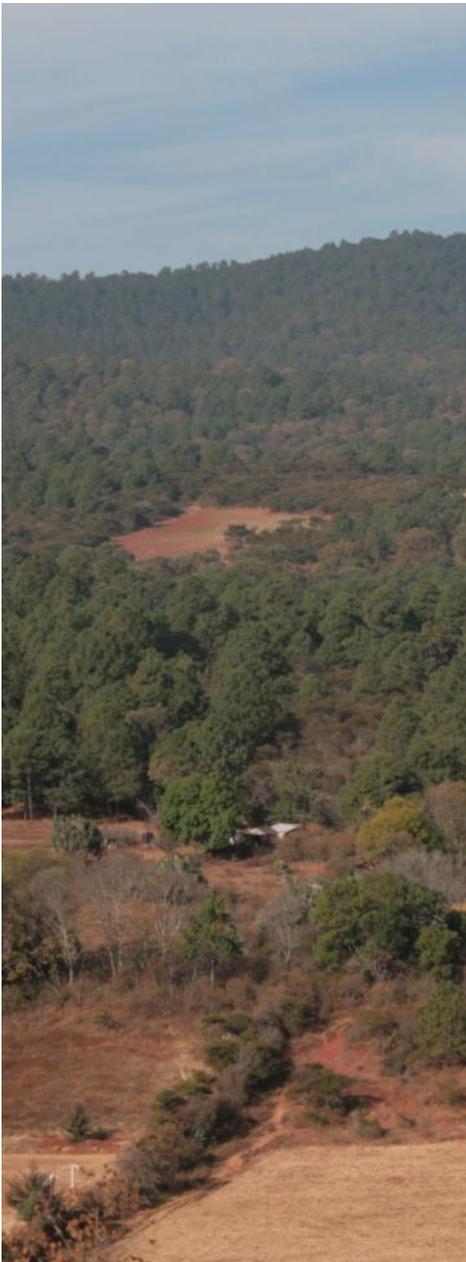


Reference level: tracking down deforestation

The goal is to project the forest carbon emissions from land use change that will occur under the actual conditions and tendencies.

Photo: Fernando Reyes.



The Reinforcing REDD+ and South-South cooperation Project of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), is working to have a reference level of greenhouse gases emissions in the forest sector in Mexico, that is going to be a key indicator to verify the performance of the mitigation actions that the country will do in the framework of the mechanism for reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).

The reference level seeks to project the forest carbon emissions caused

by the humans activities in the forest that would occur under the actual conditions and trends, this indicator is key in the preparation of the REDD+ national strategy, because enable infer to the future that emissions taking in count that happened in the past, assuming the continuation of the average deforestation rates from previous years, the trends of deforestation rates or applying adjustments to changing circumstances of economic development, demographic or social.

The necessary inputs to define a reference level are: a) the baseline analysis, which is integrated by the definition of the historic series of time for the estimation of the deforestation and forest degradation rates; b) and

an analysis of deforestation drivers, with the objective of explain the historic deforestation and base the hypothesis about future deforestation.

For the construction of the historic series it is important to document the land use change analysis methodology to ensure transparency of the process and that the outcome of that analysis can be compared.

1993-2010

Are the years of the historic analysis.

In the development of the reference level there are some steps to follow: select the validity period, that is to say the time period in

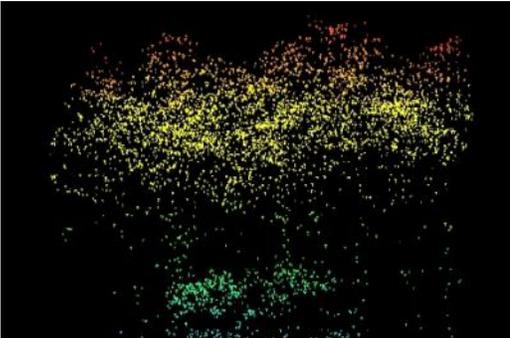
the future during which this indicator will be effective, define the mitigation activities that are going to be taken in count, decide the carbon stocks that are going to be accounting and to establish the greenhouse gases that are going to be monitoring and evaluated.

CONAFOR, through Reinforcing REDD+ and South-South cooperation Project, has been working with the Research Center for Environmental Geography (CIGA), of the Mexico National Autonomous University (UNAM), who is working in the definition of a suitable methodology for the construction of the reference level and the analysis of cover vegetation data series that includes the period 1993 to 2010. 

The implementation of LiDAR in the Mexican MRV system

USAID and the United States Forest Service organized a meeting about LiDAR advance topics.

Photo: Courtesy.



LiDAR point cloud with respect to a wooded area.

The Reinforcing REDD+ and South-South cooperation Project implemented by the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), is exploring different options and reaches for the use of points clouds taken with the LiDAR sensor (Laser Imaging Detection and Ranging), as part of the operational system of remote sensors and the improve of emissions factors of greenhouse gases, to explore the reaches of this technology and to evaluate its pertinence for the biomass estimation in Mexico forest, as well the identification of forest degradation areas.

The LiDAR technology is the result of the integration of the Global Position System, the Inertial Measurement Unit and Laser sensor, which is used for the altitude data collection. These data help to define the ground surface and generate Digital Elevation Models.

LiDAR provides data and variables such as: height and vegetation

density, with which is possible to generate models for the mapping of forest characteristics as basal area, volume, biomass, carbon, height, among others.

Recently was held a workshop about advance topics on LiDAR for its implementation in the measurement, report and verification (MRV) system of Mexico, held by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United States Forest Service (USFS), in which the Project participated.

At this meeting attended various research institutions such as the Postgraduate College (COLPOS), and the Yucatan Scientific Research Center (CICY), who informed the approaches with they are going to work the LiDAR information.

Read the complete note at our web page in www.mrv.mx. 

Works in MRV

Tenders

Consulting services to document lessons learned from policy evaluation mechanisms and programs Agriculture and Forestry sector in Mexico. Specifically SEMARNAT programs and organizations-decentralized and distributed - and SAGARPA. (Limit of receipt: September 22, 2013).

Consultancy services for the development of a desktop / mobile to capture field data from forest inventories. (Limit of receipt: September 22, 2013).

Consulting services to estimate volume, biomass and carbon for integration into the general protocol. (Limit of receipt: September 26, 2013).

Vacancies

Substitute Administrative Assistant. (Limit of receipt: September 17, 2013).

Check out the announcements on the website www.mrv.mx



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