

**PRESENTATION OF A. GOMEZ-POMPA
THE PROAFT PROGRAM
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Acknowledgments

PHRASE ON DEFORESTATION FROM N. MAYERS

- Many scientists and organizations have expressed their concern.

CAUSES OF DEFORESTATION

- Tropical deforestation is considered to be one of the most important problems of this generation.

DEFORESTATION IN SELECTED TROPICAL COUNTRIES

- Tropical countries are characterized by the rapid destruction of their forests. Financial resources, even for big development programs, are used more for temporary reasons rather than for long-term plans. Since the 1960s, the policy behind international aid from multilateral banks and large development agencies has been that development programs exploiting the enormous potential of tropical resources would end problems of poverty.

By the mid-1980s, the crisis in the tropics showed that this was not the case, and that both the expectation and the strategy were false.

- Deforestation has become one of humanity's principal global problems. Its effects are the loss of biological and ecological diversity. Immediate and

long-term consequences threaten not only the survival of many living creatures but also the quality of human life.

- A fact that cannot be ignored is that the massive destruction of tropical forests throughout the world has been promoted by a series of mistaken policies for which the tropical countries themselves and the international development agencies are responsible.
- The problem.

SLIDES ON DEFORESTATION:

UXPANAPA BURNING

MILPA

VENEZUELA MILPA

BURNING FIELD

CATTLE RANCHING PANAMA

CATTLE IN CHIAPAS

DEFORESTATION IN PALENQUE, CHIAPAS

- Mexican tropical have been deforested at an incredible rate. These figures from the Municipality of Palenque explain by themselves.

TOTONACAPAN DEFORESTATION

RAIN FOREST FROM AIR

RARE PLANT

- The most important problem is the threat of extinctions of rare and local endemic taxa. Mass extinctions have been predicted.

PHRASES ON EXTINCTIONS: REIA & MILLER RAVEN

- We don't know for sure the amount of extinctions we only guess on them. However the trend is clear and the scarcity of data is frightening.

EXTINCTIONS AND OLD TROPICAL CULTURES: YAXCHILAN

NEW COLONIZATION OF CHIAPAS: COROZAL

POVERTY

- There is a painful coincidence between high biodiversity countries and poverty. The world has failed to recognize fully this issue. Conservation measures affect the lives of local people. The most important places to be protected are frequently inhabited by the poorest among the poor people.

9.3 MILLIONS OF MEXICAN IN EXTREME POVERTY CONDITIONS

- Mexico has an impressive number of its citizens in extreme poverty.

INFRA SUBSISTENCE FARMERS GRAPH

- The majority of Mexico farmers can't produce the food they need. These farmers live in high biodiversity areas. They have been called the "guardians" of biodiversity.

MILPA IN A FOREST AREA

The paradox is that the poorest people, of the poorest regions of the poorest countries of the world are the one with the burden of the costs of conservation. Mexico is also a poor country. At least the majority of its inhabitants are poor.

PEASANT WITH FIREWOOD

MEXICO VEGETATION MAP

- Mexico is a very diverse country: biologically, ecologically and culturally. It is one of the so called megadiversity countries.

STATISTICS OF BIOLOGICAL RICHNESS

- Because of its size, geographical location, climate and geological history, Mexico has one of the richest floras and faunas of the world.

MEXICO RATE OF DEFORESTATION

- Mexico also has one of the highest rates of deforestation.

TROPICAL FOREST ACTION PLAN

The Tropical Forest Action Plan (TFAP) was an international response initiated in 1985 to worldwide deforestation. The founding institutions were the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Resources Institute. Various United Nations agencies and multilateral organizations joined later.

TFAP: MEXICO

TFAP-INTERNATIONAL

Tropical forest action plan of 1985. FAO/WRI + donor countries.

- Some problems:

A narrow approach that only considered forest aspects.

The process was promoted primarily by the donors.

Ecological and conservation aspects were not taken into account.

The planning process was closed, secret, and did not involve the communities.

- More funding to do the same.

- The first Mexico TFAP. The same basic problem. Many criticisms

THE NEW TFAP OF MEXICO: PROAFT

- My participation in a new effort: PROAFT. Invitation by the Mexican Government in 1992. My demands were:

- Freedom to develop a pilot research program on tropical forest conservation and management.
- Freedom to choose my collaborators.
- Low profile in the initial stages.
- A core budget for the initial staff.
- The program was going to be run by a new ad hoc NGO: PROAFT A. C.

- A proposal was presented and approved by the Under Secretary of Forestry at the end of 1991. The initial activities were presented and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture 1992 and by President Salinas in 1992.

PROAFT HYPOTHESIS

OBJECTIVE OF PROAFT-MEXICO

PHRASE FROM RIO

- The Rio Conference devoted a lot of attention to the discussion of a biodiversity convention. Tropical ecosystems have the highest biodiversity. There is a need to reverse the trend.

PROAFT A. C.

- The development of a long term plan for the tropical forest of Mexico based on finding of phase 1, to be presented this year to the Mexican Government and to the international participants of TFAP.

MAP OF PROAFT

- PROAFT has been working mainly in southeastern Mexico.

THE INSTRUMENTS OF PROAFT

- Diagnostic studies to evaluate the current state of the forests and to explain some of the causes of their deterioration. PROAFT contracted sixteen diagnostic studies to provide the scientific and analytical information base necessary for defining the tropical forest problems in concrete terms. The fundamental objective of the studies was to evaluate the causes, effects, problems, and incentives behind deforestation.

EXAMPLES OF CASE STUDIES:

USE OF FIREWOOD FORESTS IN MEXICO

16 studies were commissioned. We will be publishing them as soon as we find a sponsor.

SLIDE TRIPARTITE ALLIANCES

COMPONENTS

The Tripartite Alliances are based on the interest, will, and experience of a group of peasants. Each Alliance is established by means of an agreement

between the members of the community, the technical support institutions working in the area (such as local research institutes or non governmental organizations), and PROAFT and its sponsors. A requirement for forming an Alliance is that the community must commit to conserving and enriching its forest heritage.

Requisites for an Alliance:

- A community doing something positive. A recognition.
- They want to participate in a network of people and share their experiences.
- A regional organization (NGO or similar) to vouch what they are doing.
- Willingness to participate with PROAFT initiatives.
- Willingness to work with PROAFT to develop a natural resources management plan: inventory of resources.
- Process. A regional call for proposals. A selection by an advisory committee. A workshop to review the selected projects. Potential donors participation to fund the alliances. 26 were selected.

COMMUNAL TREE NURSERIES OF CEIBA

2. Developing a tree nursery of native trees for reforestation of areas recently exploited in Quintana Roo.

ECOTOURISM

3. Ecological and cultural tourism in an ejido in Quintana Roo.

5. Agroforestry project in an indian community in Tabasco.

SLIDE Agroforestry in X'pujil

An agroforestry project in Yucatan.

WOMEN FORESTRY IN HOME GARDENS LIST OF VERACRUZ ALLIANCES WORKING THE TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES LAND USE MAP

Each alliance is encouraged to do a land use ordination (or ecological zoning), a resources inventory, and the creation of a community development plan through a participatory process involving the three components of the Alliance.

HUMAN RESOURCES INVENTORIES EMBROIDERY DESIGN

PROMOTERS

PROAFT started a program of local coordinators (Promoters de Enlace) to facilitate community activities and to achieve specific objectives of the Tripartite Alliances. However we have had funding problems for the full support of this activity. One donor who offer to finance this project by itself decided not to do it. However PROAFT has gone ahead in a modest way.

- Selection. Courses. Promoters of PROAFT.

TWO TYPE OF PROMOTERS

The coordinators are selected from two groups with different backgrounds and are assigned in pairs to the communities where Tripartite Alliances have been developed. The two types of sponsors are

Professional coordinators: people with formal training in the biological, forestry, social, or other similar sciences

Peasant coordinators: These are local people who know the native language and culture and so can facilitate communication and the gathering of complete and reliable data. They are capable of assisting one to five rural tropical communities

PROMOTERS AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION HEALTH

PROMOTORS

The most recent project has been the initiation of a community education and health program with a combination of modern and traditional medicine approaches.

PUBLICATIONS

AGREEMENTS

Through Agreements for Forestry Development, financing mechanisms and direct links between producers and industry or businessmen will be promoted. The institution responsible for providing technical advice is fundamental for ensuring sustainable use of the resource. Each agreement is established by a contract between the community, communities, or small

landowners; the institution that provides technical support; the industry that will buy the products; and PROAFT as a friendly watch dog.

These agreements between the producers of forest products, the industry that demands those products, a research institution, and PROAFT will promote mechanisms for financing and links between producers and industry.

EXAMPLES:

MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS

MARKETING OF TROPICAL WOODS

ORGANIC COFFEE PRODUCTION

MARKETING OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

FORUMS AND WORKSHOPS (4 SLIDES):

PROAFT

LOCAL

TOTONACAN

VERACRUZ FORUM

A series of Regional Forums and Workshops provided other indispensable information, not only for establishing a long-term plan but also for suggesting priority activities. The principal objective was to gather the opinions, expectations, experiences, and proposals of diverse groups with interests in the forests.

At the Forums a series of very important questions were posed and they constitute the main challenges of the TFAP.

QUESTIONS FROM FORUMS

PROAFT SCIENTISTS

PROAFT, offers a visiting researcher program and invites researchers from Mexico and other countries to become involved for one or two years in the regional research and education centers collaborating with us. The invitation implies a commitment to participate in PROAFT's activities to develop research on conservation, forest management and/or conservation-management in the tropics, and to collaborate with colleagues in the host institutions.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

ALLIANCE ADVISORS

PROAFT SCIENTISTS

PROAFT INTERNS. THESIS

FINANCING OF PROAFT

financing of PROAFT.

- Diversity of funding sources. Advantages and disadvantages.
Experimental round table of donors.
- PROAFT A. C. as an innovative way to develop a Government Program.
- PROAFT research. Scientists in different institutions working on PROAFT projects. Agreements with: UADY, ITESM,

CIES, UI, UdeA, ECOSFERA, GEDEAC, Maderas para el Pueblo.

– PROAFT Friends. WRI, Fundación Miguel Alemán, WWF.

– Problems: funding, bureaucracy of some donors, Solidaridad, stability of PROAFT staff.

THE FUTURE OF PROAFT: TFAP-MEXICO. BOOK

A long term plan has been prepared. It will be presented in July to an international round table of TFAP donors.

THE TFAP-PROGRAMS

This plan has been developed jointly with inputs from the local communities, from local organizations, from the authors of the diagnostic studies and government officials. The new plan known as TFAP-Mexico proposes the financing of activities that should address the following topics:

1. Participatory ecological planning for the use of land and local and regional community resources (ejidos and small properties).
2. Stabilization of agriculture and animal husbandry.
3. Development of the forestry industry.
4. Sustainable forest production and commercialization of ecological tropical products.
5. Improvement of research, higher education, and extension services in conservation and management of tropical areas.
6. Revaluation and enrichment of traditional knowledge about conservation and management of tropical areas.

7. Promotion of ecological restoration of degraded tropical forest areas.
8. Conservation and biological and ecological diversity in the tropics.
9. Improvement of the quality of life among those peoples participating in the Tripartite Alliances.
10. 'Informal' community education and the dissemination of information about the TFAP-Mexico activities.

The new TFAP-Mexico is structured to develop activities over the next twenty-five years. We are proposing an initial set of projects as the starting point for the TFAP-Mexico. Each project has been identified through the PROAFT instruments and for each one we have identified the responsible institution and a tentative budget.

For each program we are proposing a series of projects that addresses the 4 principal components of what we have identified as basic: community initiatives proposed by the alliances, scientific and/or technological research, linkage with other institutions, participation of women.

ALTERNATIVES

There are two main alternatives:

- The TFAP is fully sponsored and funded by the Mexican Government with contributions from TFAP donors.
- The TFAP-Mexico is not approved or delayed its approval or is approved without funding.

If the first alternative comes through. We have in place a plan that includes 10 programs with more than 400 concrete projects.

If faced with the second alternative. The plan will be on hold. The members of PROAFT A. C. have discussed this scenario and have decided to continue working with the on going projects as much as possible. We will concentrate in documenting this experience. We will seek financial support for the core projects and staff.

OUR OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN PARTIALLY MET

We have initiated a process of trying to put the conservation and management of the forest resources to the people.

NEW GENERATION

We will be waiting for another opportunity to continue our work. We believe that the new generation of peasants deserve better options for their future development, and we, as a privileged group of scientists who are witnesses of the unjust societies we live in, have a responsibility to help by using our best instruments: our knowledge and ideas.