



**Maximizing Forest Benefits:
REDD and Sustainable Forestry in the Maya
Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala**

*Reducing Emissions from Forest Degradation:
FSC Certificated Forest Management
Copenhagen, Denmark
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1

Protected Areas in Guatemala

2

REDD in Protected Areas in Guatemala

3

Case Study: REDD in the Maya Biosphere Reserve

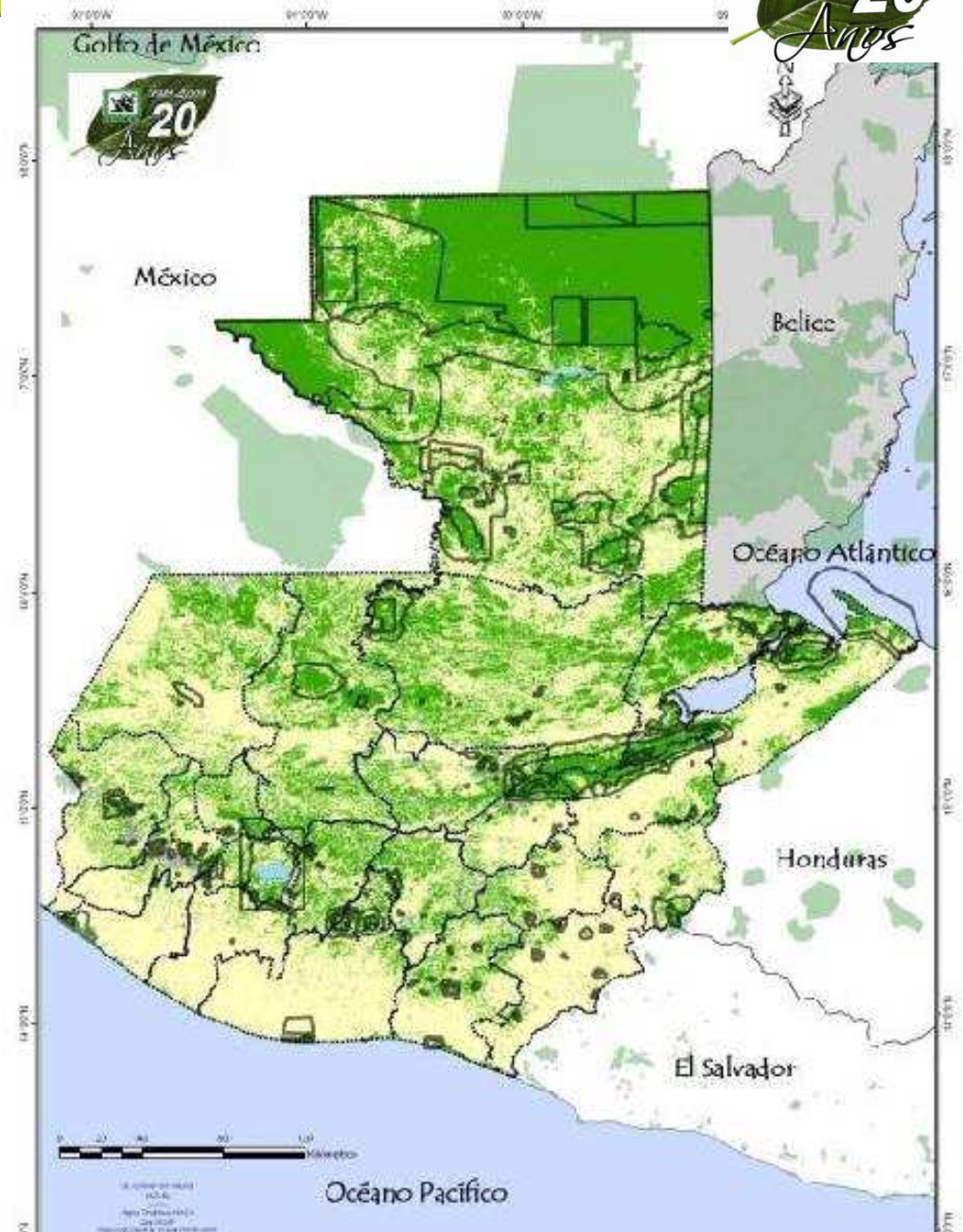
Guatemala



Guatemalan Protected Areas System (SIGAP)



- Protected areas occupy more than 32% of Guatemala territory
- Guatemala's biggest and best conserved forests are located in protected areas
- The protected areas conserve **natural forest** and all of the natural services that they provide



Why REDD in a Protected Area?

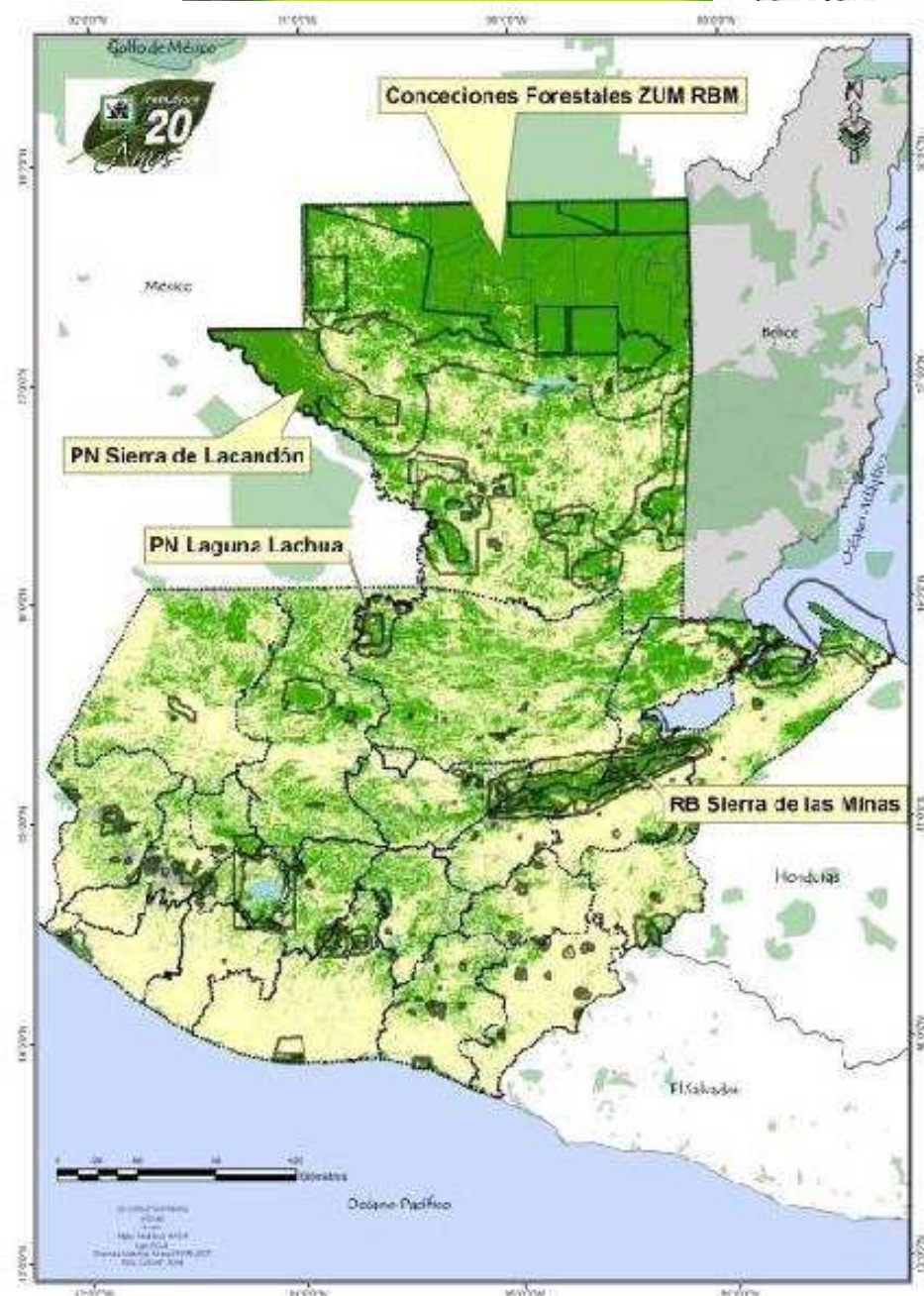


- Deforestation is the most important source of carbon emissions in Guatemala: 50% of the nation's
- 73,000 Ha of forest are lost every year (1,26% annual deforestation rate)
- REDD initiatives could be an alternative for long-term conservation of natural forests

REDD Initiatives in Protected Areas



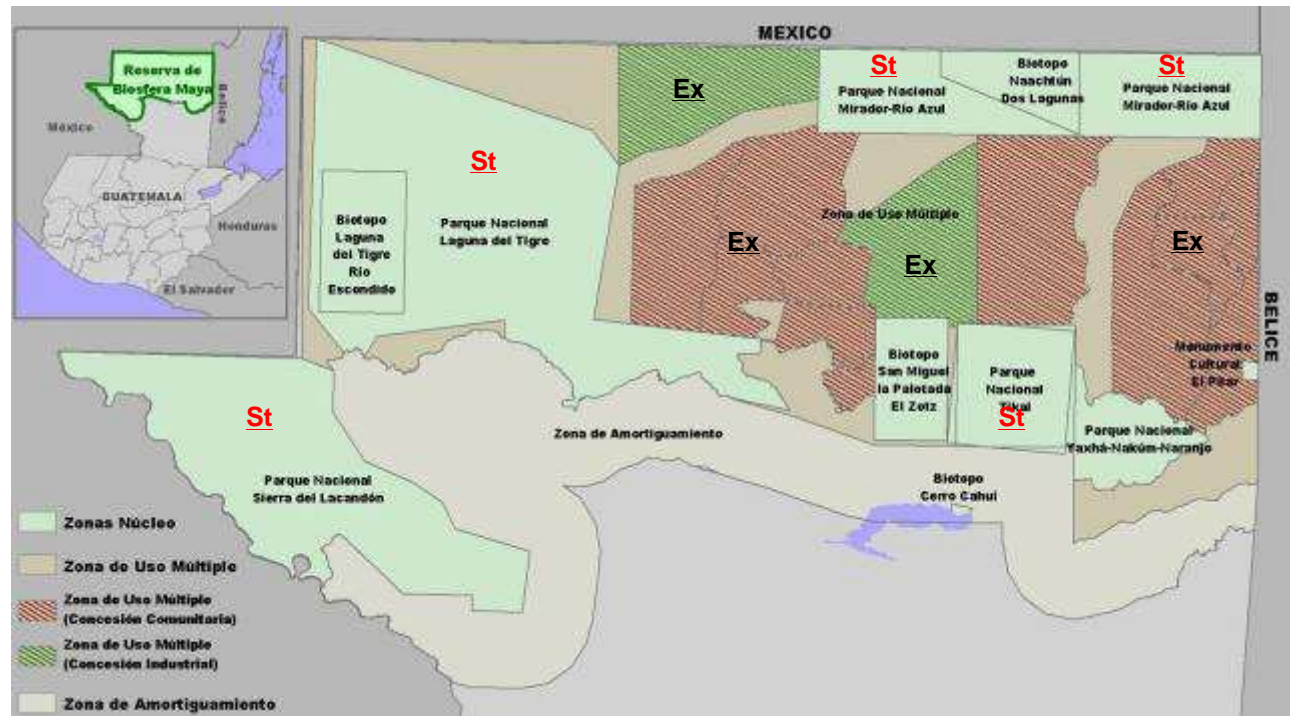
- 4 advanced initiatives
- 670,000 ha
- Exploring the possibility of including additional types of protected areas in REDD activities:
 - Private Natural Reserves
 - Regional Municipal Parks
 - Community managed Protected Areas



REDD in the Mayan Biosphere Reserve



The Maya Biosphere Reserve: the largest protected area in Central America.



Includes responsible forest management and areas for strict protection

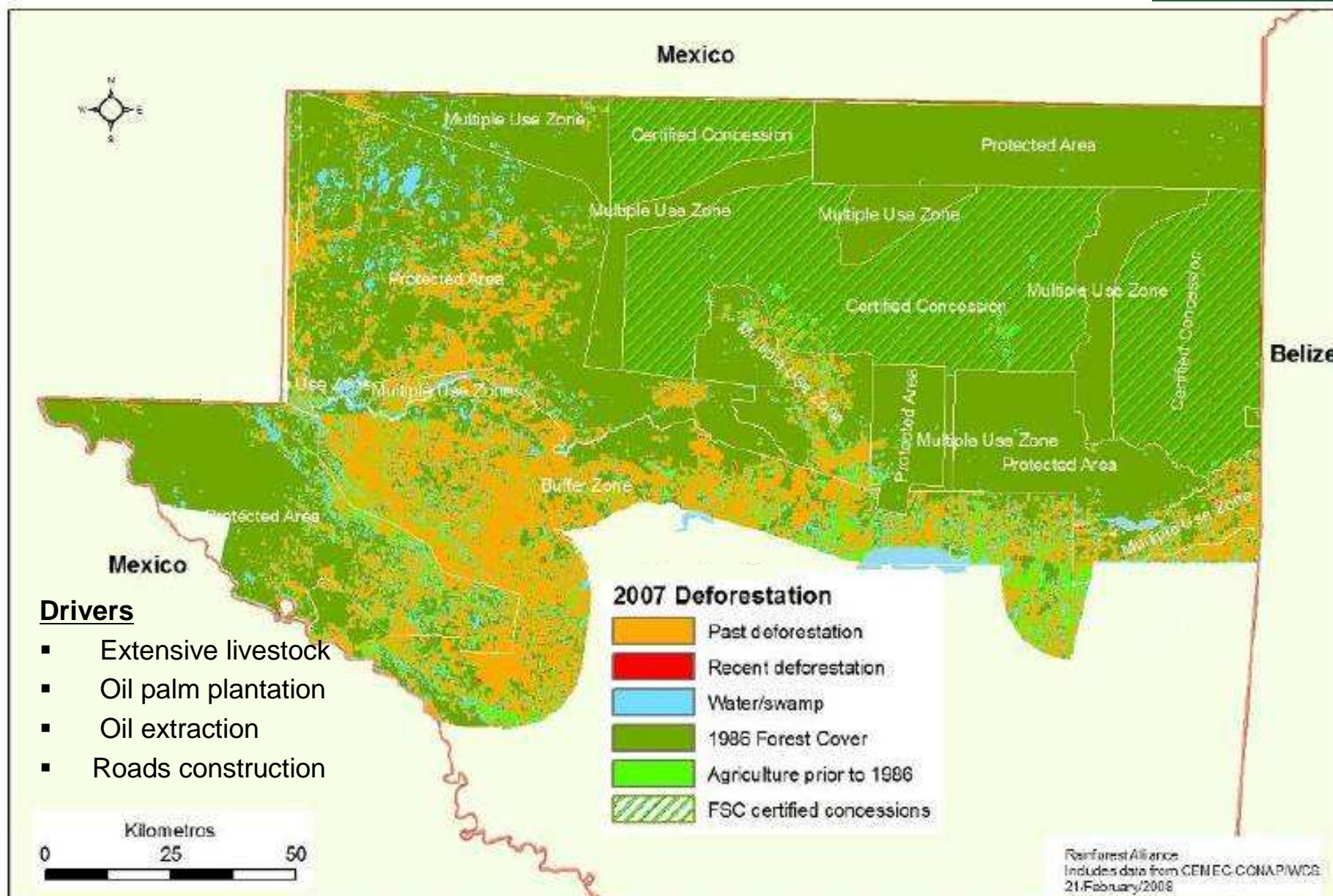


A complex collage of various nature-related images, including close-ups of animal eyes (a toucan, a bird, a fish), a toucan's beak, a green parrot, a yellow flower, a green leaf, a brown textured object, a blue eye, a blue and white striped object, and a yellow and black patterned object.

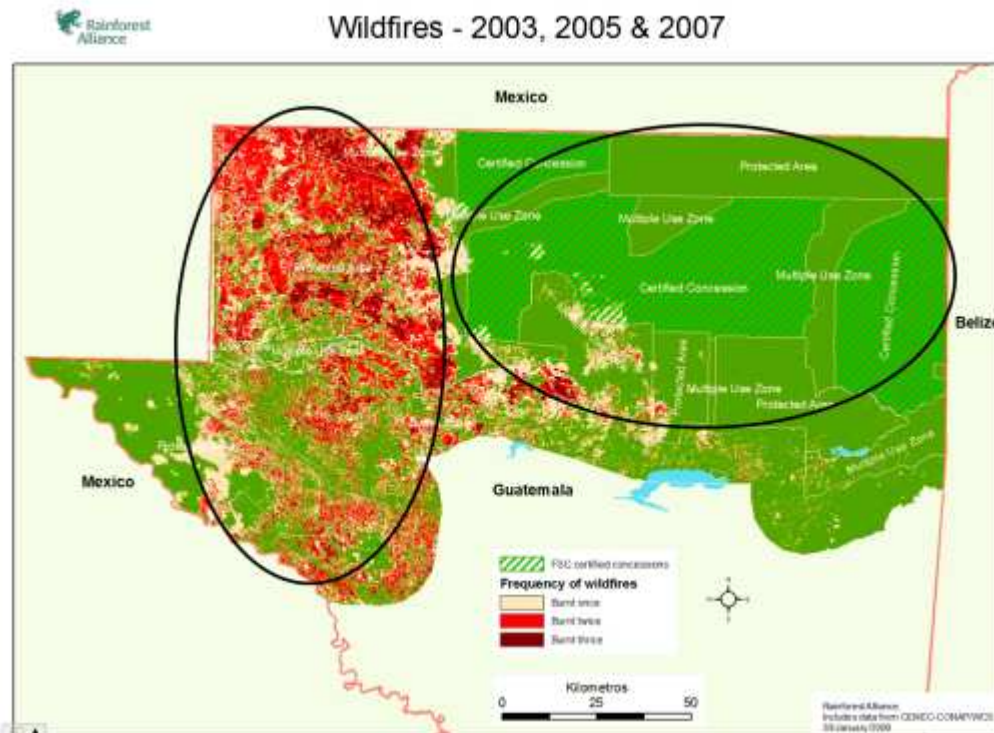
A collage of nine photographs showing various archaeological sites and artifacts. The images include: a close-up of a stone carving with a face; a large stone structure, possibly a pyramid or temple, surrounded by dense forest; a stone wall with a grid pattern; a cave interior with a large opening; a stone structure with a small window; a stone wall; a stone wall; a stone wall; and a stone wall.

Forest Cover and Deforestation

2007



Reducing deforestation in the MBR



REDD Project will include:

- 560,000 ha of Forest Stewardship Council certified forest
- 12 forest concessions (10 community and two industrial concessions)
- More than 5000 families who depend on the forest for livelihoods
- Land tenure: national

Objective: to use REDD activities to improve existing management

- Avoided emissions potential: 16 million tons CO₂e over 30 years (based on preliminary deforestation model)

- **Establishing the legal framework**
 - National Climate Change Policy and National CC Strategy
 - Climate Change Law is now being discuss at the Congress
 - At national level we are constructing the framework for the REDD strategy with government and non government institutions.
 - Developing a Legal mechanism to permit project implementation and credit sales
- **Building the baseline:** modeling deforestation in the entire Peten department (sub-national, larger than the project)
- Defining an effecient and equitable **financial mechanism** for management of funds

Project Partners



- The National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP)
 - Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
 - Association of Forest Concessions
 - Rainforest Alliance (facilitator)
 - Other local actors
-
- Funded by:
 - CONAP
 - The concessionaries
 - Inter-American Development Bank Multilateral Investment Fund
 - USAID
 - Exporters Association of Guatemala
 - Rainforest Alliance.



The keys to success



- Biodiversity, maya cultural heritage
- Communities will be beneficiaries of the carbon project in order to make sustainable forest management a competitive land use alternative.
- Mechanism must be structured to achieve social benefits, capacity building, sustainable initiatives and local governance.
- Strengthening the presence and capacity of the National Council of Protected Areas, CONAP.
- Part of the benefits must be reinvested in improving practices in productive activities:
 - Sustainable forestry best management practices
 - Value-added wood / non-wood products
 - Business skills development
 - Eco and cultural tourism
 - Agroforestry



Why does CONAP require certification of forest concessions?



- Improved forest management by maintaining FSC certification will ensure biodiversity conservation.
 - Illegal logging, deforestation and forest fires are best controlled through an integrated community and government strategic partnership.
- Certification and REDD+
Management to the standards of the FSC helps concessionaries avoid forest degradation so that forest carbon stocks are maintained and the risk of deforestation is reduced.



Thank you

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