



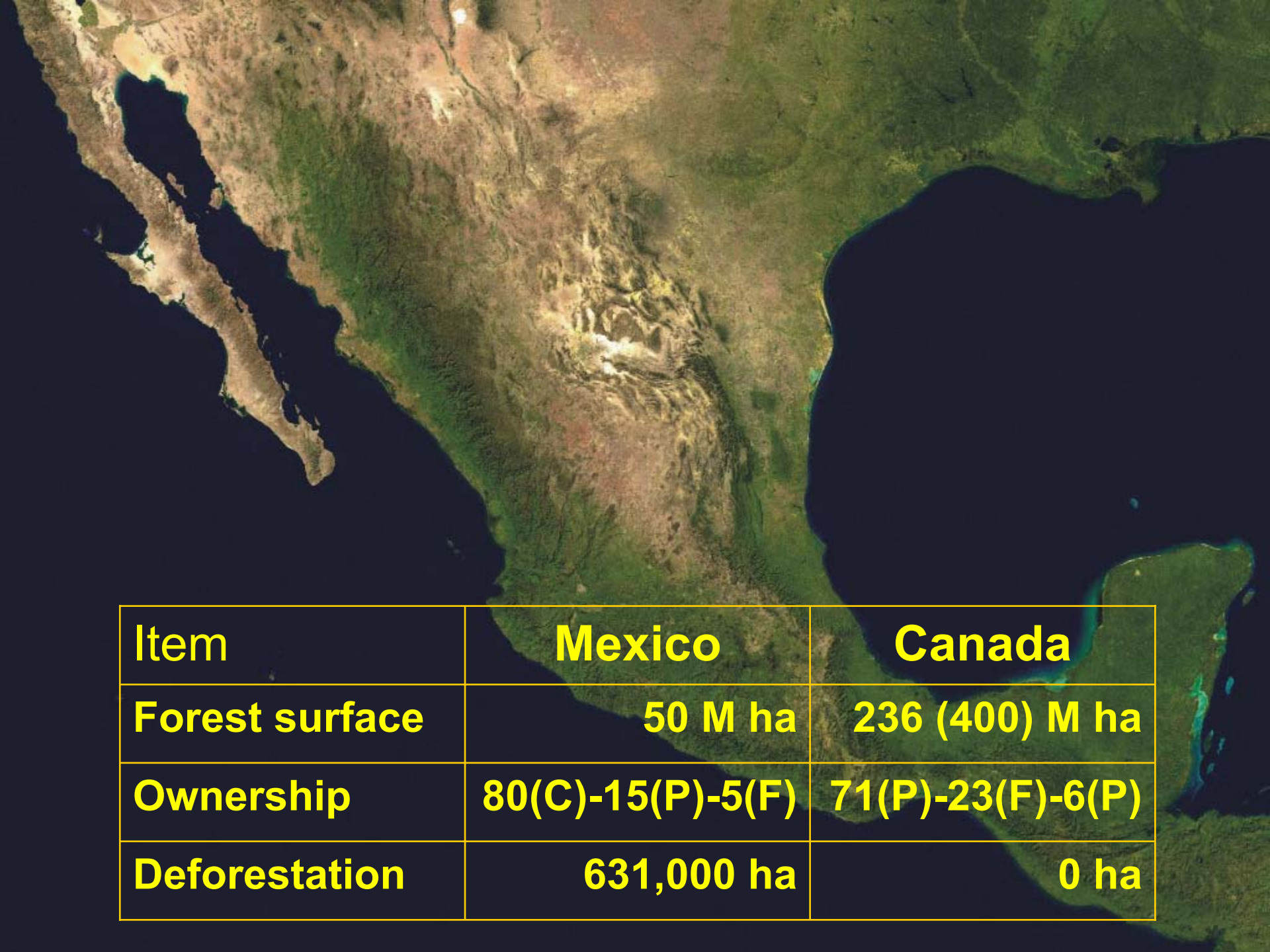
COMISIÓN NACIONAL FORESTAL

Evaluating forestry programs and policies in Mexico

The experience of the National
Forest Commission (CONAFOR)



What are our forest resources?



Item	Mexico	Canada
Forest surface	50 M ha	236 (400) M ha
Ownership	80(C)-15(P)-5(F)	71(P)-23(F)-6(P)
Deforestation	631,000 ha	0 ha

Forestry in Mexico

- Institutional framework
 - Comisión Nacional Forestal (April, 2001)
- Planning framework
 - Strategic Forest Program 2025
 - National Forest Program 2001–2006
- Regulatory framework
 - General Law for Sustainable Forest Development (2003)

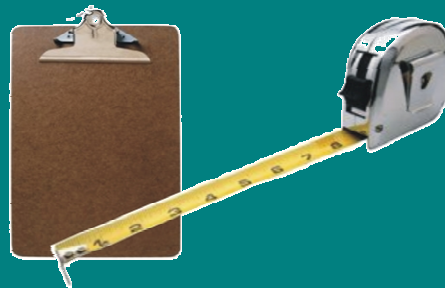


Mexico's forest programs

- National Reforestation Program (PRONARE).
- Forestry Development Program (PRODEFOR).
- Commercial Forest Plantations Development Program (PRODEPLAN).
- Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in Mexico (PROCYMAF).

Why do we evaluate our programs?

- Annual reporting to legislative power (Mexican Congress) and budget and control agencies (SHCP and SFP).
- Accountability in the use of public resources (*Transparencia*).
- Program improvement processes.



What are the results?

- Survival rates of reforestation projects are close to 50%.
 - Commercial forest plantations have survival rates over 90%.
 - Program beneficiaries are very satisfied with the operation of the programs.
- However...





Survival rates average data from different species, methods and States (6 – 97%).



Only about 17,000 ha hectares of forest plantations have actually been established.



95% of the beneficiaries are satisfied with the programs (Who would *not* like to get money?)

What are the problems?

- ❑ The evaluation reporting model is based on the agricultural evaluation model of annual crops – forest cycles take as long as 30 years to be completed.
- ❑ The results of the evaluation lag a year behind, in order to show at least some impacts.
- ❑ A good deal of the process deals with the satisfaction of the beneficiaries and the ability of the government to disburse resources.

What are our weaknesses?

- ❑ Legislators and other government agencies focus on a narrow set of indicators.
- ❑ The cost of an in-depth evaluation of thousands of small projects in 15 different categories and 32 States is enormous: *small is difficult*.
- ❑ People are not used to being evaluated.
- ❑ There are strong prejudices concerning the programs' results.
- ❑ Indicators are hard to define and quantify.

What are our strengths?

- ☑ A statistically sound model for sampling.
- ☑ Direct input into program design and operation, participating in the formulation of the Rules of Operation.
- ☑ Publication of the full text of the evaluation documents in our web site.
- ☑ Geocoding information of every sampled site.
- ☑ Development of a set of standard operating procedures (SOP).

What lies ahead?

- We need to develop clear, consistent and measurable indicators of actual impacts on welfare and forest productivity.
- We need to formulate a model for policy simulation that will allow us to assess its impacts on sustainable forestry before policy is actually implemented.
- We are about to evaluate the strategic plans the define our planning goals in the mid- and long- terms.

Would you like to know more?

Please visit our website:

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Thank you!