OAS, COPANT, SIM and IAAC and PTB are implementing the regional project "Regional Fund Quality Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Climate Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean". The project aims to strengthen the capabilities of the Quality Infrastructure ("QI") institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean to develop and supply new and innovative services in the fields of biodiversity and climate protection.

The project has a fund structure which provides an optimum gearing of the support measures to the different national and sub-regional framework conditions. National and regional QI institutions submit project proposals with respect to biodiversity and climate protection, these are assessed and selected by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) according to well-defined criteria. This structure allows to address the different needs of the QI institutions with necessary flexibility, to implement trendsetting projects exemplarily and to strengthen different QI elements, both in the individual countries and in the region.

In order to support the transition process towards a "green economy", it is planned to focus on four areas: regional exchange with regard to ISO standards and development of standards, improvement of the metrological system, and development and implementation of new accreditation programmes as well as programmes for validation, verification and certification.

A first call for Subproject Proposals has been issued in 2013 which led to six subprojects being currently implemented. For more information on the regional project and its current activities, please refer to [https://www.ptb.de/lac/index.php?id=fundqi-biodiversity-climate](https://www.ptb.de/lac/index.php?id=fundqi-biodiversity-climate).

This second Call for Subproject Proposals seeks to identify additional activities to be implemented during the project term which ends in June 2018.

The selection process by the Project Steering Committee will be realized according to the following criteria:

- The contribution of the proposal to achieve the regional projects objective and success indicators (see Annex I);
- The degree to which the proposal is developed in accordance with the national/ regional demand for the proposed QI services;
- The degree of innovation that is represented by the proposal;
- The proposal's contribution to the institutional strengthening by means of capacity building elements;
- The number of countries involved (e.g. through sub-regional or regional approaches);
- The QI-elements (standardization, metrology, accreditation, conformity assessment) involved in the proposal;
- The degree to which mentoring and learning among participants is fostered.

Please elaborate on how the proposal fulfills each criterion by using
the table in Annex IV. For questions on the project or selection process please refer to Susanne Wendt (susanne.wendt@ptb.de) or Anna Kruijp (anna.kruijp@ptb.de).

**Proposed Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline for submittal of proposal. Please send proposals to Susanne Wendt and Anna Kruijp</td>
<td>January 30, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revision of proposal by PSC and notification</td>
<td>March 30, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If necessary, adjustment of proposal and submittal of second draft</td>
<td>May 30, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submittal of Commitment letter by every participating institution</td>
<td>May 31, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revision of second draft by PSC and final decision on selection</td>
<td>June 30, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start of implementation of subproject</td>
<td>July 1, 2016 (until June 2018)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Remarks**

Please note that:

- In order to achieve a well-balanced distribution of funds, we are strongly encouraging proposals with a focus on biodiversity.
- There is no possibility to support the acquisition of equipment with project funds. Activities eligible for funding are trainings, capacity building activities, workshops and seminars, intercomparisons and consulting by technical experts.
- All submitting and participating institutions will be required to submit a formal commitment letter in which they acknowledge the proposed terms of references (see Annex III) before starting implementation.
- The maximum support for each subproject will be 200,000 EUR.
- Term for implementation for each subproject: July 2016 - June 2018.

**Annex**

Annex me: Formsheet for Subproject Proposal.
Annex II: Tentative Operational Plan (separate file).
Annex III: Terms of Reference.
Annex V: Template for Commitment Letter (separate file).
Annex 1:  
Objective

The capacities of the QI-institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean for the provision of new and innovative services in the field of biodiversity and climate protection are strengthened.

Success Indicator

- At least five sector strategies are developed that target the challenges arising for the quality infrastructure with respect to the protection of biodiversity and the climate.

1. Establish partnerships with the interest groups in the project to spread the knowledge about accreditation, certification, benefits and operation for a management system and a chain of custody, with the final purpose of achieving the sustainable forest certification within the PEFC scheme.

2. Identify the institutions, sectors and people involved in the protection of the existent biodiversity in the Mexican, Ecuadorian and Colombian forests.
   - Mexico:
     The sustainable management of some species like red cedar (*Cedrela odorata*) and mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), It is relevant to mention that Mexico has developed a standard which specify the sustainable management of a forest “NMX-AA-143-SCFI-2015- To certify the forest sustainable management” which mention the following standards that are the support for a sustainable management (NOM-019-SEMARNAT-2006, NOM-060-SEMARNAT-1994, NOM-061-SEMARNAT-1994, NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, NOM-015-SEMARNAT/SAGARPA-2007, NOM-152-SEMARNAT-2006).
   - Ecuador:
     Environment Ministry is developing standards to sustainable use of non-timber forest in Ecuador like Holy Wood (*Palo Santo - Bursera graveolens*) and chain of custody.

3. Determine, based on the legislation, requirements, standards (NOM¹, NMX², technical specifications), decrees, and the necessity for quality infrastructure.

4. Make partnerships with Ecuador and Colombia through the SAE³ and ONAC⁴ in order to promote the quality infrastructure for biodiversity & climate protection in Latin America.

5. To carry out the spread campaigns about the forest influence in the climate change, mainly for its capability to absorb and stock Carbon Dioxide CO₂ (main greenhouse gas in the atmosphere).


¹ NOM: Norma Oficial Mexicana (Mexican Official Standard).
² NMX: Norma Mexicana (Mexican Standard).
³ SAE: Servicio de Acreditación Equatoriano (Ecuadorian Accreditation Service).
⁴ ONAC: Organismo Nacional de Acreditación de Colombia (National Accreditation Body of Colombia).
At least 40 new and demand-oriented QI services in the field of biodiversity and climate protection are developed.

New services may be referred to:

- Development of Accreditation within PEFC forest certification in Mexico and Ecuador
- Certification body must be fullfil ISO 17021.
- Development in Mexico and Ecuador of Sustainable Forest and Chain of Custody Certification within PEFC scheme.
- Certification body must be fullfil ISO 17065.
Form sheet for Subproject Proposal

Monday May 30th, 2016

Sustainable Forest and Chain of Custody Certification within PEFC scheme

Submitting Organisation (“Subproject Coordinator”):

Name of responsible contact person: Ana Alicia García Ahumada
Institution: entidad mexicana de acreditación (ema)
Phone: 001+52+ (55) 5047 4910
Mobile: 044 55 43 10 28 90
Email: ana.garcia@ema.org.mx

Name of responsible contact person: Darwin Alexander Yépez Carpio
Institution: Servicio de Acreditación Ecuatoriano (SAE)
Phone: +(593 2) 3316120
Mobile: +(593 9) 95605021
Email: dyepez@acreditacion.gob.ec

Name of responsible contact person: Ferney A. Chaparro Díaz.
Institution: Organismo Nacional de Acreditación de Colombia (ONAC)
Phone: 57+1) 7427592 Ext. 105
Mobile: 310 203 16 99
Email: ferney.chaparro@onac.org.co

Background

What is the motivation to submit this proposal?

The motivation to do the present project is justified because Mexico counts with approximately 34.2 million hectares of temperate climate and jungles that cover near that 32% of the national territory that is why Mexico has the eighth position in forest extension over the world and the second place in Latin America. These resources are very important for the country from the social, economic and environmental point of view. Around 80% of the forest and jungles of the country are under social property regime, constituted by about 8,500 agricultural centers. It is estimated that the annual removal of wood is nearly 56 million m³ per year (including rural and industrial wood – PEF5 2025, 2001) and more than 1,500 is used in non-timber forest product. Additionally, different urban centers depend on the environmental services that the forest produces, for example to protect the water and soil. The direct contribution of the forestal sector is 5,000 million dollars per year (0.81% GDP6) and it creates around 100,000 permanent employments.

In Mexico has been developed “The Mexican Forest Certification System (SCEFORMEX)”, which is conformed of public institutions and organizations with national representation whose existence and operation is to promote the voluntary forest certification in the country, through standards, procedures and manuals. The actual system consists of: 1) a standard that has to be certificated represented by the

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5 PEF: Programa Estratégico Forestal (Forestal Strategic Program).
6 GDP: Gross Domestic Product.
REGIONAL FUND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE PROTECTION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Mexican standard NMX-AA-143-SCFI-2015, 2) an accreditation body (ema), 3) certification bodies accredited and finally a forestal council to boost the national forest certification.

tma from Mexico has a list of potential customers interested in achieving the accreditation for sustainable forest certification, for their accreditation scope like Greenhouse Gas Validation/Verification Bodies as well as Certification Bodies for Environmental Management Systems, some of them are listed below:

1. Asociación de Normalización y Certificación, A.C.
2. Solal, S.C.
3. PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS, S.C.
4. Asociacion Española de Normalizacion y Certificación.
5. Sustainable Solutions International, S.A. De C.V.
6. Asociacion Nacional de la Industria Quimica, A.C.
8. BSI Group America Inc.
9. BVQI Mexicana, S.A. De C.V.
10. Certificación Mexicana, S.C.
11. Det Norske Veritas Mexico, S.A. De C.V.
12. Factual Services, S.C.
13. Instituto Mexicano de Normalización y Certificación, A.C.
14. Sociedad Mexicana de Normalización y Certificación, S.C.
15. Normalización y Certificación Electrónica S.C.
16. SGS de México, S.A. de C.V.
17. TÜV Rheinland de México, S.A. de C.V.
18. Asociación de Normalización y Certificación, A.C.
19. ABS Quality Evaluations, Inc.
20. Asociación Española de Normalización y Certificación.

As well we add interested parts in the development of this project:

1. Mexican Council of Forest Certification (Consejo Mexicano de Certificación Forestal).
2. CONAFOR7.
3. SEMARNAT8.

What topic in the area of biodiversity or climate change is being addressed?

7CONAFOR Comisión Nacional Forestal (National Commission Forestry)
8 SEMARNAT Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources)
9 PROFEPA Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente, (Federal Attorney of Environmental Protection).
Mexico, Ecuador and Colombia are three of the 12 countries in the world considered like megadiverse that is why it has approximately 60 – 70 percent of the biodiversity in the world (Mittermeier y Goettsh, 1992). Particularly in the forest and jungle areas, where most of the wealth and genetic diversity is found (calculated as the 10% of the total in the world) that exist in Mexico (Benítez y González, 1997). Therefore, topics like biodiversity and climate change are addressed in the sustainable forest certification, which guarantees to consumers that their shoppings are from a sustainable forest, and it doesn’t contribute to the destruction and degradation of the Mexican forests. The certification involve two aspects; on one hand, the independent evaluation of the forest management operation based on the PEFC specific standards, this one includes typically the forest health, economic operation viability, social impact of the activities about forest management and, on the other hand, the second aspect called “inspection about custody chain” that involves the wood flux from the forest through the transformation and commercial process until the arrival to the final consumer.

What demand do you plan to cover & where does this demand come from?

The National Development Plan 2013-2018 provides, among other objectives, to boost and guide a green growth that preserves our natural heritage and, at the same time, generates wealth, competitiveness and employment - jobs, by implementing an environmental and natural resources integral policy that links the environment sustainability with costs and benefits for society. Based on the last publication of the Forestry Yearbook in 2014, the main plaint for the sustainable certification forest it is going to come from the timber producers from the states of Durango, Chihuahua, Michoacán, Oaxaca and Jalisco that contribute with the 67.2% of the total timber production in Mexico.

Currently in Mexico they have certified 2.2 million hectares and are in the process of certification 1.5 million hectares; all of the above under the following existing schemes:
Ecuadorian Environment Ministry is developing standards to sustainable use of non-timber forest in Ecuador like Holy Wood (Palo Santo - Bursera graveolens) and chain of custody.

Objective(s)

**What benefit is aimed to be achieved for Biodiversity and Climate Change actors?**

The purpose of the sustainable forest and chain of custody certification is to verify that the forests are managed in a sustainable way through the conformity assessment with the agreed standard and performance indicators. The main benefits from it includes:

- It helps to differentiate the products in the market and the possibility to access the certificated market that nowadays is thriving; furthermore, in some cases certificated markets offer high prices with more stability.
- It promotes a responsible forest management and high quality, considering environmental, social and economic aspects.
- It promotes the continuous improvement of the business management and higher performance due to more efficient use-practices of the raw material in the forest and during the industrial processing.
- Improve the income of the population related to this activity, improve their standard of life, and foster a deeper commitment to conserve the species.
- It improves the operational profile and the national and international recognition.
- And finally, it furthers the relationships between the forestal operations manage, the local communities and others interest groups.

Target Group

**Who will benefit from the support?**

Ministry of environment and natural resources (SEMARNAT), Ecuadorian Environment Ministry (MAE), National Forest Commission (CONAFOR), Federal Attorney of Environmental Protection (PRO-
FEPA), accreditation bodies (ema, SAE and ONAC), certification bodies, companies interested in getting certified, state regulatory authorities, social property regime (ejidos\(^{13}\), communities and the owners of the forest) and the society in general.

**Expected Results**

**Which new or enhanced QI products or services you are expecting?**

- Development of the certification scheme, standardization, accreditation as well as the technical requirements for certification of sustainable forests and chain of custody, in Mexico and Ecuador.
- Improvement and enlargement of the infrastructure of the conformity assessment in Mexico and Ecuador.

**Contribution to indicator & Methodology**

The next activities are developed expecting to contribute in the improving of the infrastructure of conformity assessment.

- Support for the developed in create the Mexican Council of Forest Certification Management Manual.
- Support for create the National members (or "National Governing Bodies") established to develop and implement a PEFC system within Ecuador.
- Provide support and guidance in the development of the necessary regulations.
- Training (theoretically and practically) about PEFC international standards, guides and best practices, these will be held by workshops and internships with key participants. Once the standards are developed and approved, they will be share within the countries involved in the project.
- Supporting communities to implement the legislation or other regulation criteria as necessary.
- Accompaniment during the pilot certification processes, this will also be useful for the accreditation body as a way to assess the technical competence of the certification body.

**Tentative Operational Plan**

Please describe the steps you intend to take to implement the activity, the time you estimate they will require, and mark those steps where an external input is required, specify what kind of input that should be (expert, travel support, etc.)

Please use the provided template for the tentative Operational Plan (see Annex II, separate excel file), providing also information on the foreseen own contribution by every participating institution.

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\(^{13}\) Ejidos: In Mexican system of government, an "ejido" is an area of communal land used for agriculture, on which community members individually possess and farm a specific parcel. "Ejidos" are registered with Mexico's National Agrarian Registry.
Annex II Tentative Operational Plan (see separate file)

Note: See excel for more information.

Annex III: Terms of Reference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>PSC</th>
<th>PTB</th>
<th>Subproject Coordinator</th>
<th>Participating Institutions (PI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Preparations for and Management of the Regional Project as a Whole</td>
<td>Agree and sign implementation agreement</td>
<td>Agree and sign implementation agreement</td>
<td>Ana Alicia García Ahumada</td>
<td>Environment ministries, accreditation bodies and certification bodies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular virtual meeting and personal meeting once a year</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ana Alicia García Ahumada</td>
<td>Environment ministries, accreditation bodies and certification bodies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agree on templates and guidelines used in the scope of the project</td>
<td>Provide proposals for templates and guidelines</td>
<td>Ana Alicia García Ahumada</td>
<td>ema</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Implementation of Sub-Projects             |                                                                     |                                                                     |                         |                                |
| Preparation                                | Agree selection criteria                                           |                                                                     |                         |                                |
|                                            | Issue Call for Proposal with corresponding templates               |                                                                     |                         |                                |
|                                            | Consult with participants about interests and needs               | Provide information on status quo and needs                         |                         |                                |
|                                            | Elaborate project idea and submit to PSC                          |                                                                     |                         |                                |
|                                            | Elaborate project proposal and tentative action plan               | Provide more detailed information                                   |                         |                                |
|                                            | Dissemination of proposals via regional Organizations             |                                                                     |                         | Other interested countries join proposal |
|                                            | Refine and update proposal with new members                       |                                                                     |                         |                                |

Technical screen-
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Contribution with information on:  
- Contribution  
- Time budget (for implementation)  
- Logistical capabilities (hosting etc.)  
- Letter of commitment | Refine Action Plan according to requirements of PSC |
|  | Inform Plan on “Go Ahead” |
|  | Coordination and implementation of activities (in coordination with PTB Team) |
|  | Coordination:  
- Date  
- Venue (host)  
- Concept  
- Participants and objectives, agenda  
- Travel logistics  
- Reporting/doc/ 
- documentation/follow up |
| Implementation of Activities | Provide necessary funding and logistical support for every activity according to timeline and needs specified in action plans of subprojects |
|  | Technical consultation for planning of activity, if necessary |
|  | Accompany and consult reg. coordinators with the planning and implementation of subprojects if necessary. |
|  | Coordination:  
- Date  
- Venue (host)  
- Concept  
- Participants and objectives, agenda  
- Travel logistics  
- Reporting/doc/ 
- documentation/follow up |
|  | If no logistical support from PTB required: Register every activity 6 weeks before with PTB and announce required funding  
  ➤ Reporting on financing |
|  | If logistical support required: register activity 8 weeks before |
| Monitoring and reporting | Agree reporting requirements |
|  | Elaborate proposals for reporting requirements and templates |
|  | Receive and revise information on monitored |
|  | Reporting towards PSC and BMZ (July) incl. |
|  | Regular reporting towards PSC (30th June and 15th) |
|  | Provide necessary information  
For reporting |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation of Sub-Projects</th>
<th>Agreements and scope of evaluation</th>
<th>Elaborate proposed ToRs and scope of evaluation</th>
<th>Provide information necessary for evaluation</th>
<th>Provide information necessary for evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receive evaluation report and make necessary adjustments to procedures, templates, ToRs to improve implementation of next round of sub projects</td>
<td>Organize evaluation in coordination with subproject coordinator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transversal Issues**

**Explorative study on QI and BioDiv and Climate; Institutional Learning and Innovation**

Contribute to and review proposed study; disseminate publication.

Elaborate ToRs of explorative study, contract expert and accompany elaboration and publication of study.

**Awareness Raising**

Awareness Raising and Dissemination of Project
- Within regional organizations
- Stakeholders
- Authorities

Awareness Raising and Dissemination of Project
Organize and coordinate Awareness Raising and Dissemination events.
**Annex IV: Evaluation Criteria**

*Please elaborate on how the proposal fulfills each criterion*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal Name</th>
<th><strong>Sustainable Forest and Chain of Custody Certification within PEFC scheme</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Contribution to project goal | 1. Establish partnerships with the interest groups in the project to spread the knowledge about accreditation, certification, benefits and operation for a management system and a chain of custody, with the final purpose of achieving the sustainable forest certification within the PEFC scheme.  
2. Identify the institutions, sectors and people involved in the protection of the existent biodiversity in the Mexican, Ecuadorian and Colombian forests.  
   Mexico: The sustainable management of some species like red cedar (*Cedrela odorata*) and mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), It is relevant to mention that Mexico has developed a standard which specify the sustainable management of a forest “NMX-AA-143-SCFI-2015- To certify the forest sustainable management” which mention the following standards that are the support for a sustainable management (NOM-019-SEMARNAT-2006, NOM-060-SEMARNAT-1994, NOM-061-SEMARNAT-1994, NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010, NOM-015-SEMARNAT/SAGARPA-2007, NOM-152-SEMARNAT-2006).  
   Ecuador: Environment Ministry is developing standards to sustainable use of non-timber forest in Ecuador like Holy Wood (*Palo Santo - Bursera graveolens*) and chain of custody.  
3. Determine, based on the legislation, requirements, standards (NOM, NMX, technical specifications), decrees, and the necessity for quality infrastructure.  
4. Make partnerships with Ecuador and Colombia through the SAE and ONAC in order to promote the quality infrastructure for biodiversity & climate protection in Latin America.  
5. To carry out the spread campaigns about the forest influence in the climate change, mainly for its capability to absorb and stock Carbon Dioxide CO₂ (main greenhouse gas in the atmosphere).  
| Demand Orientation | Development of a product certification scheme to support the conservation of the country’s biodiversity. |
Development of a new product accreditation activity in the product certification area.

Mexico:

Based on the last publication of the Forestry Yearbook in 2014, the main plaint for the sustainable certification forest it is going to come from the timber producers from the states of Durango, Chihuahua, Michoacán, Oaxaca and Jalisco that contribute with the 67.2% of the total timber production in Mexico.

Ecuador:

- The Ecuadorian dry forest ecosystem
- Communities that use Palo Santo (*Bursera graveolens*)
- Certification bodies
- Authorities (Ministry of Environment)
- Ecuadorian Accreditation Service SAE

It is important to mention that, in North America, countries like Canada and USA are currently working with the PEFC scheme and in South America Argentina and Brazil are currently working within the PEFC scheme.

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**Figure 1.** PEFC International members (PEFC, 2015).

**Figure 2.** PEFC International members and Chain of custody certificates.
REGIONAL FUND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE PROTECTION
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

(PEFC, 2015)

Figure 3. PEFC Endorsed countries and countries developing a system
(PEFC, 2015)

Figure 4. PEFC Certified Forest Area by Region (PEFC, 2015)

Figure 5. PEFC Chain of custody by region (PEFC, 2015)
However through PTB; Mexico and Ecuador want to work in the quality infrastructure for sustainable forest chain of custody certification. By means of the PEFC Sustainable Forest Management certification, is demonstrated that management practices meet the requirements for best practice in sustainable management, including:

- Biodiversity of forest ecosystems is maintained or enhanced.
- The range of services for/to the ecosystem that forests provide is sustained.
- They provide food, fibre, biomass and wood.
- They are a key part in the water cycle; they act as sinks capturing and storing carbon, and prevent soil erosion.
- They provide habitats and shelter for people and wildlife; and they offer recreational benefits.
- Chemicals are substituted by natural alternatives or their use is minimized.
- Workers' rights and welfare are protected.
- Local employment is encouraged.
- Indigenous peoples' rights are respected.
- Operations are undertaken within the legal framework and following best practices.

| QI-Components | PEFC international standards, guides and best practices. Standardization, Certification and Accreditation. | No. of countries | 3 |

**Institutional Consolidation**

- Mexico: Mexican Accreditation entity, National Comission Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Federal Attorney of Environmental Protection.
- Ecuador: Ecuadorian Accreditation Service, Ecuadorian Environment Ministry
- Colombia: Organismo Nacional de Acreditación de Colombia (National Accreditation Body of Colombia) and Ministry of Environment and Sustainability Development.

**Mentoring**

PTB Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)

Annex V: Template for Commitment Letter (see separate file)