

Towards an Ecological Restoration Plan for Mexico

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The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of the United Nations (1993) established a Global Strategy for Plant Conservation which is the framework for the Mexican Strategy for Plant Conservation (EMCV, in Spanish) coordinated by the National Commission for the Use and Knowledge of Biodiversity (CONABIO, in Spanish). The third objective of this strategy refers to the increase of restored areas and the recovery of degraded ecosystems. Following the CBD Strategic Plan, the “Bonn Challenge”, an international agreement to restore 150 million of hectares in the entire world, was established in 2011. Further, in 2014, the 20 × 20 initiative promised to restore 20 million hectares in Latin America, of which Mexico promised to restore 8.5 million. In 2014, CONABIO established the Coordinating Committee for the Implementation of the Mexican Strategy for Plant Conservation. The third objective of the EMCV is coordinated by Eliane Ceccon and Cristina Martínez-Garza. To fulfill the Mexican commitment on the restoration of ecosystems, 17 activities were proposed. Some of the activities that stand out are: a) the First National Restoration Symposium (November 2014, Cuernavaca, Mexico), b) a book that incorporates the experiences gathered in the meeting (2016), and c) a workshop called “Challenges and prospects to meet the international agreements on Ecological Restoration” supported by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and CONABIO (2015). The aim of the workshop was to design a national evaluation of restoration projects towards the construction of an ecological restoration plan for Mexico.