

Already back in 1994, Guatemala established a specific *Viceministry for the Affairs of Petén* (VM) for promoting the economic development of the department. Due to the prevailing vision of the agricultural potential of Petén, and following waves of colonization, the VM Petén was situated under the Ministry of Agriculture. It maintains several offices in Petén and is staffed with more than 200 functionaries. The operational capacity and budget is therefore considerable but competencies for fostering a green transition of the sector, in particular designing alternative options for the escalating cattle breeding, or regarding mitigation / adaptation to climate change, are limited.

The 14 municipalities of Petén represent the local level of political participation in Guatemala. Mayors are elected for a four-year period and can be re-elected. The main role of the municipal committees are to approve and monitor the annual plans designed and implemented by the mayor's staff. These operational plans focus mainly the provision of educational, sanitary and health services within their territories. The Municipal Code provides also for some other responsibilities, e.g. in economic development. Most of Petén's municipalities have little institutional capacities and achieve very low scores in a recent related national survey.

Several municipalities of the department have agreed to form man-communities in order to resolve jointly those problems, which transcend their municipal territory and coordinate common activities. The currently existing two man-communities (Lago Petén-Itza; Poptun) constitute important interlocutors for the present action, in particular because environmental degradation and climate change issues can better be resolved in wider territories and with joint capacities.

Although civil society organisations have not established a formal network in Petén, their role in terms of policy development and consensus building is important. In particular, the forest and agricultural sectors count on several well equipped, experienced and motivated Non-Government Organisations and colonizers and indigenous groups are well organised in civil organisations.

On technical level, the principal interlocutor for both regional and sectorial programmes in Guatemala represents the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency. SEGEPLAN is responsible for the coherence in the design and implementation of national sector policies and the approval of local development and investment plans of the municipalities. Furthermore, it is the official coordinator for international cooperation. For fulfilling its functions at the department councils, SEGEPLAN establishes technical units (Unidad Técnica Departamental, UTD) for preparing the monthly sessions, following up on operations and budgets, and coordinating programmes between central, regional and local levels of the public administration.

This UTD constitutes the main interlocutor for the entire action and is the institutional counterpart for implementing the proposed activities under component 1. Its operational capacities and professional competencies are limited, counting with only a few professionals distributed in three local offices for assisting both municipalities and line ministries in planning exercises and implementation of sector or municipal policies.

According to the specific purpose of the five components selected for this action, different line ministries and public entities are involved in designing and implementing the proposed activities:

- Component 1 (Capacity Development): National Institute of Public Administration (INAP).
- Component 2 (Forest Management): Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN);
National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP);
National Forest Institute (INAB).
- Component 3 (Resilient Agriculture): Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAGA);
Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO);
Secretariat of Food and Nutritional Security (SESAN).
- Component 4 (Sustainable Tourism): Guatemalan Tourism Institute (INGUAT);
Local Tourism Councils (CAT).
- Component 5 (Solid Waste / Sewage): Ministry of Health;
Autoridad para el Manejo de la Cuenca del Lago Petén Itzá (AMPI).