GCFWATCH

46th Board Meeting of the Green Climate Fund

October 26-29, 2026, Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea

GCF Observer Network of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities

Intervention on

FP324: GCF Results-Based Payments Mexico 2018-2019 aimed at Forest Conservation and Sustainable Livestock

Access the document: https://www.greenclimate.fund/board-document/gcf-b46-02-add17

As the first proposal under the updated REDD+ results-based payments policy, FP324 will set the template for every request that follows. We recognize Mexico's community forestry model, sustained largely by ejidos, agrarian communities and Indigenous Peoples, as Mexico's emission reductions are real, and they were achieved in large part by the communities who care for these forests. We also thank the Secretariat and ITAP for their careful assessments. In particular, the inclusion of a results framework and dedicated non-carbon benefits is a welcome advance on the earlier REDD+ RBP.

But the commitments owed to the rights-holders are deferred to an inception phase this Board will not see. We note that the Fund is also paying a 3.5 percent premium for non-carbon benefits on Indigenous Peoples' and Afro-Mexican livelihoods and gender equality, and the ITAP finds that these benefits are not consistently reflected in the results framework.

We therefore request the Accredited Entity to ensure the following:

First, free, prior and informed consent must apply to all activities in Indigenous territories and Afro-Mexican communities, with the right to withhold consent stated explicitly.

The Indigenous Peoples Plans, benefit-sharing rules and gender action plan should be validated with Indigenous peoples, Afro-Mexican and women's organizations before the second disbursement, and disclosed publicly and not depend only on the Secretariat's no-objection.

Second, the Project Steering Committee, now limited to the government and FAO, should include Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Mexican peoples, women's organizations and agrarian communities.

Third, the 25 percent target for funding to on-the-ground grant activities, about 46 million dollars, should be firm and measured by funding, with separate shares for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Mexican peoples. It is currently a combined figure the project "will seek to ensure", measured by headcount in the results framework.

Fourth, women hold only 27 percent of agrarian rights, yet the dedicated women's window is less than 3 percent of the total. CONAFOR's affirmative measures should apply across all funding windows. Benefit-sharing should recognize those who carry out REDD+ work without formal land rights, as the consultations themselves recommended.

Finally, because Mexico has not granted the GCF privileges and immunities, a grievance mechanism must be operational before field work begins. It must be accessible in Indigenous languages and safe for gender-based violence complaints.