



SNAPSHOT

Supporting Mexico's Climate Change Achievements

Custom-made software facilitates inter-agency coordination to mitigate climate change



The USAID Mexico Competitiveness Program trains federal officials on using the state-of-the-art PECC monitoring system and data reporting procedures.

"We all have responsibilities as countries and as individuals. The only way to show that we are actually making progress is to measure, follow up on, and evaluate compliance with objectives, goals, and strategies."

--SEMARNAT climate change official Jose Antonio Urteaga

As one of the first developing countries to commit to specific goals to combat climate change, Mexico has implemented the Special Program on Climate Change (PECC in Spanish), which aims to reduce emissions by 51 billion metric tons of CO₂ per year by 2012. To achieve this ambitious goal, Mexico's Ministry of Environment (SEMARNAT) assumed responsibility for gathering and processing data from government agencies with climate change commitments. This task posed two key challenges: 1) developing a functional online reporting system that numerous and diverse public sector institutions could use; and 2) facilitating coordination among those institutions submitting data.

In response to these challenges USAID provided the link between the environment ministry and technical experts with experience developing reporting systems for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Together, the parties were able to design a new online system that both adapts to Mexico's needs and allows users to report progress and calculate emissions reduction impacts using internationally recognized methodologies. The first version of the PECC Reporting System went live in September 2010. Subsequently, USAID worked with SEMARNAT to develop and make available a user's guide and training sessions for the Mexican Office of Climate Change Policy and representatives from participating federal agencies.

The PECC monitoring system represents not only a technical benchmark for developing countries, but also a significant advance in inter-agency cooperation within the Mexican Government. In this regard, the USAID Competitiveness Program also served as a catalyst for unprecedented intra-governmental cooperation in data reporting.

As a result of the PECC reporting System, the Mexican Government can now systematically produce and document key information on its climate change goals, which enhances its credibility within the international community. The PECC monitoring system is also a prime example of the U.S. Government working hand-in-hand with developing countries to support the achievement of their climate change goals.