

Program of payment for environmental services and their impact on rural women from three cultures in the state of Guerrero

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Abstract

The payment for environmental services program and its impact on peasant women belonging to three cultures in the state of Guerrero. The social, economic and environmental impacts that the payment for environmental services (PES) program has on the development of women and their environment within three different cultures will be analyzed, as well as the problems they face while being an active part in the management of their natural resources. The study is being conducted with six peasant communities (Na'savi, Náhuatl, Mestizo) in three regions, all of them with high and very high degrees of marginalization. Three of them have been involved in a process of participatory planning for community development within the frame of PES, in the category of 'Biodiversity Conservation'. Information will be obtained by means of the application of a survey, semi-structured interviews, focal group meetings, and field transects.

The PES financing agency only provides economic support for the activities of natural resource conservation, but it does not carry out evaluations of the social, economic and environmental impacts. The study intends to fulfill this gap and to contribute with the evaluation of the importance that participating or not in the PES program has for the involved communities.

Environmental services, Women, Nahuatl, Na'savi, Mestizo.

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Introduction

The environmental services provided by the forest are many. Among others, carbon sequestration, oxygen production and clean water, control soil erosion, climate regulation, are places for food, reproduction and shelter for many species of wildlife, plus they provide a rich landscape. Directly influence the maintenance of life, generating benefits and welfare for people and communities. Regularly, environmental services are free for people who enjoy them while owners and owners of forest lands that provide them are not compensated in any way for it (CONAFOR, 2012).

Thus the Environmental Services Program (PSA) raises the conservation of biodiversity, poverty reduction and development in the same methodological package. In Mexico, the PSA are regulated by federal, state and local agencies and occupy an area of 3080.500 hectares of the national territory, of which 2,325,400 has provided water environmental services, while at 755.100 has been working with environmental services derived from biodiversity (CONAFOR, 2012).

Guerrero has been invested from 2004 to 2010, 160.5 million pesos to conserve 77,000 hectares of forests. For the northern region of the state has benefited 22 ejidos and communities in six municipalities with a total of 24.8 million pesos for the conservation of 13 thousand hectares of forest and woodland. This investment was mainly channeled supervision (not specified what kind), deliver reports and participate in campaigns reforestation and forest regeneration (CONAFOR, 2012). This paper examines the impact of the payment for environmental services on the development of women of three different cultures and the problems that have faced an active part in the management of natural resources is analyzed.

The funding agency of this program is only limited to providing financial resources to carry out activities of conservation of natural resources, but does not perform assessments of their impact on social, economic and environmental dimensions of the communities involved.

Six agrarian groups, of which three have the Environmental Services Program were selected. They can compare the organization of living in communities regarding the conservation of natural resources. Agricultural centers involved in research are distributed as follows: Costa Grande region (ejidos of San Vicente de Benitez and Cold Water, in the municipality of Atoyac de Alvarez); Costa Chica region (Communal Lands of Yoloxóchitl and Cuanacaxtitlán, in the municipality of San Luis Acatlan); and Mountain region (Communal Lands of Copanatoyac and Ocotequila, both in the municipality of Copanatoyac).

It is essential to assess and highlight the role of women not only as the foundation of the family, but from the income earned as a collaborator and operational part in the development of Environmental Services Program. With this, you can view the progress of their skills and empowerment that are achieving as ejidatarías and comuneras registered collective interest in projects in their communities.

This argument is that this study will generate core knowledge on the participation of women in programs that pay attention to equity, equality and social inclusion. Moreover, women in three ejidos and communal property not yet involved in implementing such programs, without for that reason they are no longer important as generators of knowledge and caretakers of natural resources are found.

This research is useful to implement knowledge of three regions in the state of Guerrero in which has been little studied women's relationship with the environment. Therefore, it is expected to provide information on the one hand, to decision makers and actors involved in promoting community development. And secondly, the same communities and women who live and work in them.

Methodology to develop

Research in adult men and women belonging to three agricultural centers included in the PES program participants. The information obtained will be contrasted with that is generated with adult women and men of three other agrarian centers which to date do not participate in the program.

Agrarian groups with which the study was conducted are as follows (Table 1):

Core	Culture agrarian	region	participates in PSA program
Costa Chica	Bienes Comunalesde Yoloxóchitl	Na'savi	Yes
	Bienes Comunales de Cuanacaxtitlan	Na'savi	No
Costa Grande	Ejido de San Vicente de Benítez	Mestizos	Yes
	Ejido de Agua fria	Mestizos	No
Montaña	Bienes Comunales de Copanatoyac	Náhuatl	Yes
	Bienes Comunales de Ocotequila	Náhuatl	No

Tabla1 Agricultural cores where the study was done

Recolecciony information analysis It will be developed by combining quantitative and qualitative techniques. Within the first, it will be carried out a survey (Lopez, 1998; Briones, 1996) between the ejidatarias / comuneras of each of the six agricultural centers participating in the study.

Some qualitative research techniques will also be used as semi-structured interviews with qualified informants (Ander-Egg, 1995); and the focus group (Morgan, 1996; Gibbs, 1997; Van Veldhuizen et al, 1997;. Russi-Alzaga, 1998). With the application of these procedures will be obtained information about knowledge on issues related to the conservation and management of natural resources in common use (water, soil, biodiversity, etc.), the perception of the impact it has had on their lives to participate or not in the PSA, and to gather local knowledge on the floristic diversity and to characterize the cultural importance of trees present in the territories of the agrariosparticipantes nuclei. The field trips with the participants would record the floristic richness in the territories involved and the state of preservation of the environment, as indicators of the health of the ecosystems.

As auxiliaries for analyzing the information obtained SPSS (for quantitative analysis) and 7.0 Atlas.ti (for qualitative) are used.

Results

The investigation is in its early stages of fieldwork. According to data that have been collected to date the ejido and community members are taking an active part in the project and it is serving to both the conservation of its natural resources to generate temporary jobs for both men and women localities involved.

With this, ejidosy communities gain important leadership in the regions in the care of their natural resources and the generation of revenue in the localities. The general population is showing that with perseverance and work can get opportunities to reduce emigration in the towns of these agrarian communities, which is a factor of loss of human resources for the development of the region.

It has been observed through the first interviews, with the PES program perception among women about their chances of development begins to undergo changes, pues aprovechan la income opportunities in their communities without being forced to emigrate, while improving their level and quality of life and bringing benefits to mankind through the conservation of natural resources and environmental services they provide.

Regarding the three farming communities that do not have the PSA program, a process of gathering information on the social organization Ylos uses and customs for the conservation of natural resources is performed. It is observed that has generado the interest of women in these communities to participate in the program. They believe that even without an economic payment for the valuation of their resources, have made efforts to preserve them.

The active participation of women in brigades, in addition to providing positive program outcomes, has enabled them to acquire a sense of satisfaction expressed by all interviewees, who point out that for the first time it takes into account for paid work in their communities; thus, they have the perception of being important part in the care and preservation of natural resources while provide income for their households.

Conclusions

Payment Program for Environmental Services has begun to benefit alos suburbs with employment opportunities.

Among the participants in the project a perception of success and raising their self-esteem to have been benefited with financial resources for the conservation of its natural resources.

There is a perception, especially among participating women and youth, it is possible to earn income without being forced to emigrate while improving their quality of life and bring benefits to mankind through the conservation of natural resources and services environmental that they provide.

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