

Project goal: train interdisciplinary experts who can

- manage forests for the sustainable provision of diverse ecosystem services and
- apply emerging policy and financial instruments, with the purpose of
- achieving greater balance between forest and biodiversity conservation and local economic development

Project partners

- Michigan Technological University (MTU)
- Iowa State University (ISU)
- Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR)
- Instituto Tecnológico del Valle de Oaxaca (ITVO)
- USAID
- CONAFOR, INIFAP, NGOs etc.

Primary project objectives

- train five students at ECOSUR and ITVO in MS programs at MTU and ISU
- develop Diplomado programs in Sustainable Forestry at ECOSUR and ITVO

MS Curricula

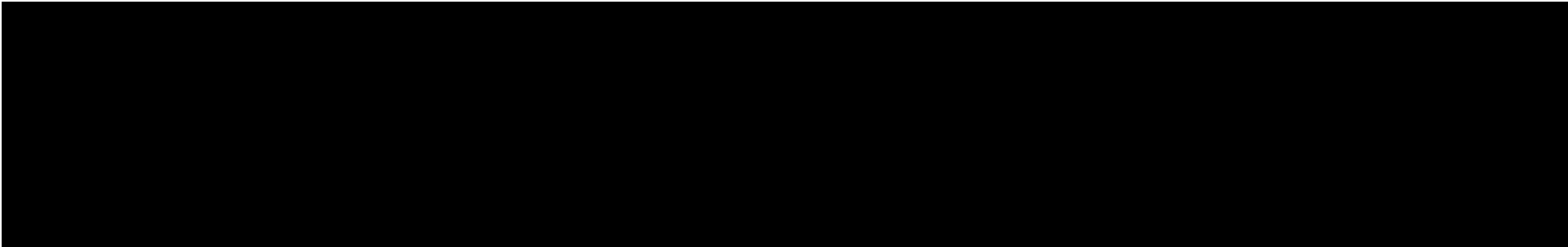
- Curricula will focus on giving students key attributes of
 - integrative thinking skills
 - multi-disciplinary, collaborative problem-solving skills
 - tools and strategies for assessing resource problems and finding effective solutions
 - skills in organizing multi-disciplinary teams
 - introductions to networks of fellow professionals

MS Curricula

- Curricula will focus on giving students key disciplinary knowledge and concepts for sustainable forest management, including
 - payment of ecosystem services,
 - community participatory management,
 - biodiversity conservation, and
 - ecosystem restoration.

MS Programs at MTU and ISU

- Students can enroll in several existing MS programs, including
 - Applied Ecology,
 - Environmental Engineering,
 - Environmental Policy, and
 - Forest/Natural Resource Ecology and Management

- 
- The MS program will include
 - coursework in the US
 - field experiences in the US and Mexico
 - research on local (Chiapas/Oaxaca) sustainable forestry issue

Typical two-year MS program schedule

Semester	Location	Activities
1: Fall 2009	MTU/ISU	Coursework, begin definition of research topic
2: Spring 2010	MTU/ISU	Coursework, write and defend research proposal
3: Summer 2010	Chiapas/Oaxaca	Research
4: Fall 2010	MTU /ISU	Coursework, research
5: Spring 2011	Chiapas/Oaxaca	Research
6: Summer 2011	MTU /ISU	Write and defend research report, graduate

MS student support

- MTU/ISU advisor and ECOSUR/ITVO mentor
- Office, access to labs at MTU/ISU
- Tuition and fees covered
- Stipend
- Supply funds
- Travel funds

Admission requirements

- Completion of recognized three-year degree in appropriate area
- Statement of purpose, application fee, official transcripts
- Three letters of reference
- Adequate academic achievement in pursuit of the three-year degree
- GRE/general test results, if required by department,
- Proof of English proficiency TOEFL (at least 550 written or 213 computer-based) or ILETS (a score comparable to TOEFL requirements)