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
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
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.
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

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