Sharing experiences – managing innovations

International Climate Initiative from 2017 to 2019
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The challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity are immense. They affect life all over the world. The international community is therefore cooperating to find solutions for the restructuring of its societies. How this can be achieved is shown by this International Climate Initiative (IKI) assessment for the years 2017 to 2019 – three years, which also saw radical changes within IKI.

With the introduction of the “Thematic and Country Calls 2017”, the project management was transferred from the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) to the new IKI Secretariat at the Zukunft - Umwelt - Gesellschaft gGmbH (ZUG). A mammoth task indeed, as more than ten years of experience with programmes was suddenly placed in new hands and new funding structures also had to be established. That was ten years with ten major international competitions, more than 4,000 project outlines and ultimately more than 700 projects that had either already been funded or would be funded by the end of 2019.

IKI has been oriented on international climate policy since its inception. Today, the Paris Agreement and its mechanisms, the agreement on biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda form the solid policy backbone of the funding conditions. In coordination with the partner countries, IKI provides funding for organizations that implement specific measures there. In this way, Germany is helping developing and emerging countries to find new and ambitious paths for their national contributions to achieving global goals. Innovative approaches such as ecosystem-based adaptation to the impacts of climate change combine nature conservation and climate change mitigation for the well-being of people, countries and societies. The aim is to support the transformation of the states in an ecologically ambitious and economically sound manner, and this is helped by especially large IKI projects (such as the NAMA facility), which are also supported by other donor countries.

The global spirit of optimism that is encouraging more and more countries, economic sectors, cities and the civil society to commit to climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and biodiversity is also reflected in the rapid depletion of IKI funds despite an increase in the funds. For the year 2019, IKI funds were completely used during the year. This also shows the great extent to which IKI is accepted and in demand all over the world, despite its stringent quality requirements. It also illustrates the importance of this precisely targeted German climate and biodiversity financing aspect. How this actually works in practice is shown here by the reports from several IKI projects.
International Climate Initiative (IKI) is one of the most important instruments of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) for the international financing of climate change mitigation and biodiversity. IKI operates within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), financing climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation in developing, emerging and transition countries. Since 2008 to 2019, IKI approved more than 730 climate and biodiversity projects with a total funding volume of 3.9 billion euros in more than 60 countries.

The partner countries are supported with IKI funding to help them implement and ambitiously develop their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) anchored in the Paris Agreement. The NDCs include measures adapt to the impacts of climate change and increase resilience to its unavoidable impacts. In the field of biodiversity, IKI supports partner countries in achieving the goals of the CBD to counteract the dramatic global loss of natural resources. The activities of IKI also contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Funding areas, types of funding and large IKI projects**

Projects that are implemented in one of the following four funding areas are eligible for support: Mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation to the impacts of climate change, conservation of natural carbon sinks with a focus on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and conservation of biodiversity. IKI projects use policy advisory services, capacity building, technology cooperation and financing mechanisms to achieve their objectives. Studies, concepts and specific measures for climate change mitigation and protection of biological diversity can also be funded. Depending on the project, funding can be bilateral, regional or global.

IKI supports through two funding pillars: the thematic and the country-specific selection procedures. Both procedures use idea competitions to select innovative projects. This approach ensures that the best ideas and concepts will be implemented and that the diversity of the implementing partners grows. Both of these funding pillars have been geared towards large-volume projects since 2017. Two small-scale project programmes have been associated with the thematic pillar since 2019 and 2020, namely IKI Small Grants and IKI Medium Grants, respectively. All funding procedures are two-stage, with the exception of the Small Grants. The competitive character of the funding procedures and the inclusion of non-governmental implementing organisations are important features of IKI that distinguish its work from classical development cooperation procedures – this means that IKI funds do not go to government institutions in partner countries.

The IKI Secretariat, located at the German state-owned company Zukunft - Umwelt - Gesellschaft (ZUG) gGmbH (Future-Environment-Society), supports technical monitoring and programme management.

In addition to selecting projects from the ideas competitions, IKI also contributes to ambitious mitigation measures solutions with independent large-scale initiatives. The BMU has created an international climate-financing programme that supports ambitious measures in combating climate change – the NAMA Facility. Other donors to the Facility besides IKI include the United Kingdom, the European Union and Denmark. Through the ‘IKI Support Project for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPA), the German government is seeking to strengthen global initiatives.
and networks it has either founded or co-founded. These initiatives and networks include the Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership (LEDS GP) and the NDC Partnership (NDCP). The “Strategic Partnerships for Implementation of the Paris Agreement” (SPIPA) of the BMU and the European Union are also working together with the G20 countries to strengthen the NDC for international economic and political relations. The Nitric Acid Climate Action Group (NACAG) is another IKI initiative that advises and supports partner countries in the technical conversion of nitric acid factories, enabling them to exploit the great potential for reducing nitrous oxide emissions as swiftly as possible.
International Climate Initiative from 2017 to 2019

More effective climate change mitigation requires continuous adaptation to the global situation. Therefore, International Climate Initiative (IKI) has undergone structural development.

IKI was founded in 2008 as one of the first instruments of international climate financing. Right from the outset, the BMU’s funding programme was adapted to the pace of global climate policy.

The funding programme was comprehensively redesigned from 2017 to 2019 to enhance IKI’s efficiency. The ideas competition was re-oriented and thematic and country-specific selection procedures introduced. The re-orientation of IKI was completed with the launch of two small project programmes, namely Small Grants and Medium Grants. This enables IKI to operate more flexibly, since it can now support large- and small-scale projects in the four funding areas. All IKI projects must apply IKI Safeguards since 2017, which are environmental and social standards intended to prevent negative impacts caused by IKI projects, and to provide even better protection for people and nature in the partner countries.

Re-alignment of the ideas competition

IKI underwent an important change with the introduction of its thematic and country-specific selection procedures. Before 2017, it was mainly small and medium-sized projects that were supported; however, IKI now focuses on large-volume projects thanks to the two new procedures. The funding amount for the thematic selection procedures amounts to between five euros to 20 million euros. In the case of the country-specific selection procedures, projects are supported with amounts between 15 euros to 35 million euros.

The ideas competition for the thematic selection process (also known as thematic call) is usually announced once a year. It contains more than ten current priority topics, assigned to the overall goals of IKI and the four funding areas. A project is commissioned for each topic. The thematic selection procedures also reflect developments in international negotiations. Each of the country-specific selection procedures (also known as country calls) supports one IKI partner country. The priorities and the selection of topics are made in close consultation with the individual partner governments. About 50 per cent of the project funds applied for go to local non-governmental organisations, universities, think-tanks and indigenous groups, for example, in the target countries. This not only achieves sustainable benefit and greater acceptance in these countries, but also strengthens their institutions and expands their knowledge and resources on the ground.

However, the implementation of the UNFCCC and the CBD also requires the support of smaller stakeholders in developing and emerging countries and the effective participation of all social groups. To address this, BMU launched two programmes at the end of 2019: IKI Small Grants and IKI Medium Grants that also seek their projects through idea competitions. IKI Small Grants directly support local non-governmental organisations and national funding institutions in developing and emerging countries. The programme aims to fund more than 100 small-scale projects, each receiving up to 100,000 euros by 2025.

IKI Medium Grants are used in developing and emerging countries to support projects that are carried out by German-based civil society organisations together with partner organisations in the target countries. Calls for funding for the programme with different priority themes are published at regular intervals. IKI plans to commission 10 to 15 projects per year. Projects are supported with funding amounting to between 300,000 euros to 800,000 euros and a duration of between two to three years. The BMU is providing a total of 30 million euros over five years for the duration of the programme.
Ideas competitions from 2017 to 2019

Within its new structure, IKI has so far carried out three thematic selection procedures and ten country-specific selection procedures. The priority topics of the thematic calls included the phasing out of coal, climate financing and the preservation and restoration of peatland ecosystems. The country calls introduced in 2017 were initiated in Argentina, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Colombia, Mexico, the Philippines, Thailand, Ukraine and Vietnam. The first idea competitions for IKI Small Grants and IKI Medium Grants will be completed in 2020. Overall, the total authorised budget increased from 386.82 million euros in 2017 to 456.82 million euros in 2019.

Funding and some practical examples

The following pages provide an overview of IKI funding for the years 2017 to 2019, itemised by the various regions in which IKI projects are carried out and by projects with a global impact. Finally, four practical examples from the four IKI funding areas illustrate the specific work of IKI.

Approved budget of International Climate Initiative from 2008 to 2019

Source: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
An overview of the funding of International Climate Initiative

Total commitments and expenditures of International Climate Initiative (IKI) for projects from 2017 to 2019: 1.6 billion euros. An overview by region.

**GLOBAL PROJECTS**

- **€825 million**
- **107**
- **63**
- **234**

**MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

- **€48 million**
- **11**
- **2**
- **36**

**CENTRAL AND LATIN AMERICA, CARIBBEAN**

- **€248 million**
- **45**
- **75**
- **88**
Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions

Adapting to the impacts of climate change

Conserving natural carbon sinks/REDD+

Conserving biodiversity

Source: BMU from 2017 to 2019 IKI funding volume of the regions (from 2008 to 2019 in millions of euros) according to the DOHA counting method; differences due to rounding up or down may occur.
Mitigation of CO₂ emissions with paper packaging made of rice straw

The SEED Initiative grants the Low Carbon Award to sustainably operating companies. One of the winners in the competition in 2019 is Fang Thai from Thailand.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can also contribute to climate change mitigation by developing and offering innovative products and services to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Sponsored by International Climate Initiative, the SEED Initiative supports sustainably operating companies at different stages of their development, from start-up, to growth and scaling. Selected start-ups receive the Low Carbon Award, which, in addition to the prize money, also includes technical support measures such as assistance in developing business plans.

One of the winners of the SEED Award in 2019 is the Fang Thai Factory Limited Partnership based in the Thai province of Lampang. The company produces biodegradable paper and packaging made from rice straw. Rice straw is a waste product of the rice harvest. It is subsequently burned, causing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. According to the calculations of the Thai Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Fang Thai can mitigate CO₂ emissions in the paper industry by about 28,000 tonnes per year, thus helping to solve one of the sector’s major problems. At the same time, the company’s business idea has created a new source of income for the Lampang farmers and considerably improved the local air quality. SEED is supporting Fang Thai for one year with business workshops and funding amounting to 10,000 euros.

Rice straw paper can also be used to produce biodegradable food packaging.
IKI: How did you get the idea for a new kind of paper?

JARUWAN KHAMMUANG: I come from Bann Samkha in Lampang Province, Thailand. Bann Samkha is a small village and the inhabitants mainly make their living from rice cultivation. Despite the yields we achieve as rice farmers, we face two main challenges: Firstly, many families do not have enough income after the harvest season, so many move to the big cities in search of work. Secondly, the rice straw is burnt, and that increases air pollution and CO₂ emissions. While Nathapol Khammuang (the Managing Director of the Fang Thai Factory Limited Partnership) and I were looking for a solution to these problems, the idea came to me that we could use the rice straw harvest residue to make paper. The packaging industry causes huge environmental problems through deforestation, high CO₂ emissions and inadequate waste management – and we believed that producing paper from 100 per cent biodegradable rice straw would be a realistic alternative.

How long did the development take?

The R&D work and the subsequent product testing took us about two years. During this time, we looked for partners and experts, got advice from them and learned from other well-known examples.

What have you already achieved?

After the foundation of the company, we initially sold handicraft products and packaging in small quantities. Later, we had a chance for a real breakthrough when a large company that needed larger quantities approached us, but our limited production capacity meant that we could not meet the company’s requirements. However, after this, interest in our idea really started to grow, and we are now contributing to the economic development of Bann Samkha. The livelihoods of about 160 families in this village depend on rice and fruit cultivation. Rice straw packaging is an environmentally friendly alternative for the secondary packaging of perishable and non-perishable food, cosmetics and beverages. The material has a whole range of positive properties. It can be produced relatively inexpensively and the packaging design can be customised. Our project also contributes to the UN goals for sustainable development, in particular Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 13 (Climate Action). Our work is also helping to achieve Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

What are your plans for the future?

In 2020, we aim to expand production capacity to 1,000 tonnes per month, because the more we can produce, the greater the contribution we can make to strengthening the foundations of life in our village and worldwide. We also need to combat the burning of harvest residues, a still widespread practice. We need realistic alternatives, because the burning of rice straw causes severe air pollution in our villages and towns.

What does the SEED Award mean for you and your project?

We can now expand our market volume and network better with others. Our company was only able to grow so quickly through the support and encouragement of the programme.
Latin America and the Caribbean have some of the most ecologically valuable forest ecosystems in the world, but 650 million hectares of the forests are affected by degradation and deforestation. The expansion of agricultural land is mainly to blame for this widespread damage, although the development of infrastructures such as roads, settlements and mining is also causing large-scale destruction of nature and the environment. These factors all lead to a loss of biodiversity and climate-damaging greenhouse gas emissions, making landscapes and infrastructure more vulnerable to the consequences of climate change.

This is why IKI supports the 20×20 Initiative, the aim of which is to restore and protect about 20 million hectares of damaged forests in the region by 2020. In view of the various degrees of land degradation in the region, 20×20 not only supports the restoration of forests, but also helps to implement sustainable land-use approaches that combine trees, arable crops and animal husbandry in holistic systems. Local people also benefit in terms of better income opportunities and food security.

20×20 cooperates with governments, respective authorities, research institutions and the private sector to achieve its goals. The project partners perform a cost-benefit analysis to determine landscape restoration measures and identify new financing mechanisms involving the private sector. The initiative also supports partner countries in developing strategic plans for reforestation. The local communities consequently benefit in many ways, including improved soil function and less soil erosion. The project thus makes a significant contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change and strengthening the region’s resilience.

Supporting Initiative 20×20: A country-led effort to bring 20 million hectares of degraded land in Latin America and the Caribbean into restoration by 2020

**Countries**
Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay

**Implementing organisation**
World Resources Institute (WRI)

**Partner institutions**
- Ministry of the Environment (MINAM) – Peru
- Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MINAE) - Costa Rica
- Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) – Mexico
- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) – Colombia
- International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) - Colombia

**BMU funding:** €4,632,021

**Duration:** 12/2015 to 11/2020
IKI: What role does the WRI play in the implementation of the 20×20 initiative?

RENÉ ZAMORA CRISTALES: For example, we coordinate the cooperation of the initiative members in various working groups on topics such as emissions trading and biodiversity. We also organise the exchange of knowledge between projects, ministries and local stakeholders, for example, through webinars, excursions and an annual international workshop on landscape restoration, we bring projects and private investors together to raise funds from the private sector for the restoration of forests, and we manage the monitoring of the results.

How do you convince local people to invest in forest restoration rather than continuing with deforestation for industrial and agricultural purposes?

We show them the advantages of doing so. Let me give you an example: In Latin America, secondary forests have so far been considered useless – those are forest areas that have already been cleared for logging or agricultural purposes, but they could be systematically reforested. It was considered more productive to move on to clear the next forest; however, we can demonstrate that sustainable forest management is not only more productive, it also brings other benefits such as protection against flooding and an improved water supply. There are forms of agricultural use like agroforestry and forest pasture grazing that combine these advantages without damaging the forests just to gain short-term benefits. In this way, we can send a strong signal to the farmers: “You can stay in your home country; you don’t have to become ‘agricultural migrants’”.

What are the biggest challenges you face in your work?

Most countries have the wrong incentive structures. Conventional agriculture, animal husbandry and seeds are subsidised, for example, but there are no financial incentives for forest restoration. The ecological services of the forests are not priced into the system, so we must create other structures that include forest restoration. This would also make it easier to attract private investors who want to invest capital, but are still afraid of the risk of financing forest restoration projects starting from the exploration phase.

Secondary forests are not without their uses.
Ecosystem-based approaches to tourism

Droughts, floods and storms characterise the image of climate change, but nature can protect itself against its own forces and it can also help the tourism industry.

Intact ecosystems provide important services for humans. They maintain soil fertility, for example, and produce clean water and air. At the same time, they protect against the impacts of climate change, mitigating droughts, floods and storms and other natural hazards to life. Strategically using and promoting these important ecosystem properties to make nature and humans more resilient is referred to as “Ecosystem-based Adaptation” (EbA). This approach also combines other advantages. The recreational use of the landscape increases, for example, which has a positive effect on health and the quality of life. Moreover, new jobs are created in sectors such as sustainable agriculture and tourism, a development that boosts the economic performance of entire regions.

The “Ecosystem-based Adaptation to climate change in cooperation with the private sector in Mexico” project (ADAPTUR - Adaptación al Cambio Climático basada en Ecosistemas con el Sector Turismo) supports adaptation to climate change in three Mexican tourism regions: San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Riviera Nayarit (Jalisco), and the Riviera Maya in Quintana Roo. The project develops various measures in these areas to protect and restore the main ecosystems, such as the Mesoamerican coral reef, coastal wetlands, lagoon systems and resilient green belts around urban areas.

The measures primarily serve to reduce economic risks for tourism enterprises, which is why the project supports partnerships between the private and the public sectors. In this way, private companies are made aware that they should address the impacts of climate change and its risks in their corporate planning. The project also anchors the aspect of biodiversity in the sense of “mainstreaming” in tourism planning measures and programmes of the public and private sector. The strategy of the Mexican Tourism Secretariat, for example, has been updated with criteria for climate change mitigation and ecosystem-based adaptation.
A habitat worth protecting for migratory birds

Protecting wetlands and retaining flight routes: These are the core objectives of an IKI project that is building a network of migratory bird sanctuaries along the African-Eurasian flight route.

Every year, millions of water birds fly from Europe to Africa and back in search of food and suitable breeding grounds. To reach their destinations during their migration, however, they need intact wetlands where they can rest and feed. International Climate Initiative (IKI) is supporting the conservation and restoration of wetlands in Ethiopia and Mali along the African-Eurasian flight route. The goal is to create a network of protected areas.

This will not only help the birds, but local populations will also benefit from these sanctuaries, because intact ecosystems increase resistance to the impacts of climate change, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and create new sources of income as tourist attractions. To achieve its goals, the project is not only committed to integrating wetland protection into the policies of the countries, but also to using an integrative approach to involve all the stakeholders who have a special interest in the project areas in question, ranging from industry to local communities.

Through this work, the project is supporting the implementation of relevant resolutions in the international Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), which was adopted within the framework of the Bonn Convention on the Protection of Migratory Species. To further develop important frameworks and the practical implementation of existing resolutions in a targeted manner, the experience gained is shared with relevant organisations and parties to the AEWA, the Ramsar Convention (an international Convention on the protection of wetlands, in particular, habitats for waterfowl and waders), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
**Abbreviations**

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>ADAPTUR</td>
<td>Ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change with the private sector in Mexico (Adaptación al Cambio Climático basada en Ecosistemas con el Sector Turismo)</td>
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<td>AEWA</td>
<td>Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds</td>
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<td>BMU</td>
<td>Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit)</td>
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<td>CBD</td>
<td>Convention on Biological Diversity</td>
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<td>CEO</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
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<td>CIAT</td>
<td>International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical)</td>
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<td>CO₂</td>
<td>Carbon dioxide</td>
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<td>CONANP</td>
<td>National Protected Area Authority Mexico (Comisión Nacional de Áreas Natural Protegidas)</td>
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<td>EbA</td>
<td>Ecosystem-based adaptation</td>
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<td>G20</td>
<td>Group of the largest industrialised and emerging economies and the European Union</td>
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<td>GIZ</td>
<td>German Development Cooperation Organisation (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH)</td>
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<td>GVEP</td>
<td>Global Village Energy Partnership</td>
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<td>IKI</td>
<td>International Climate Initiative (Internationale Klimaschutzinitiative)</td>
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<td>INECC</td>
<td>National Institute for Ecology and Climate Change Mexico (Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático)</td>
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<td>LEDS GP</td>
<td>Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership</td>
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<td>MINAE</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Energy Costa Rica (Ministerio de Abmiente y Energía)</td>
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<td>MINAM</td>
<td>Ministry of the Environment Peru (Ministerio del Ambiente)</td>
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<td>NACAG</td>
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<td>NAMA</td>
<td>National Appropriate Mitigation Actions</td>
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<td>Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership</td>
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<td>REDD+</td>
<td>Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation</td>
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<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
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<td>SECTUR</td>
<td>Tourism Secretariat Mexico (Secretaría de Turismo)</td>
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<td>Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources Mexico (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales)</td>
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<td>SMEs</td>
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<td>UN</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
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<td>UNEP</td>
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<td>UNFCCC</td>
<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
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<td>WI</td>
<td>Wetlands International</td>
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<td>WRI</td>
<td>World Resources Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZUG</td>
<td>Federally-owned, non-profit company founded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Zukunft – Umwelt – Gesellschaft gGmbH)</td>
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