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HUMANIZING THE URBAN: TOWARDS TERRITORIAL RESILIENCE

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Abstract: This study analyzed citizen perception in relation to urban and territorial development in the state of Tabasco, Mexico, which focused on analyzing key elements such as infrastructure, public services, environmental sustainability and social cohesion, based on the design of the public policy implemented through the State Program for Land Use Planning and Urban Development (PEOTDU), which is an instrument that aims to analyze patterns of territorial occupation and institutional architecture to improve the welfare conditions of people towards economic, social and sustainable growth of human settlements. It was carried out through a mixed methodology that integrated surveys and qualitative analysis of experts, identifying the main challenges and opportunities based on the perception of the population. The results indicate that urban development in Tabasco faces significant challenges in areas such as infrastructure, mobility, public safety, risk management, economic diversification and local governance. Investment in these sectors, as well as improved mechanisms for citizen participation, are essential for a more sustainable and resilient urban future.
Keywords: urban development, land-use planning, urban sustainability, citizen perception

INTRODUCTION

This paper sought to analyze the development and implementation of the State Program for Land Management and Urban Development (PEOTDU) of the state of Tabasco, Mexico, using a tool designed for the evaluation of territorial perception as a strategy to involve citizens and identify relevant aspects to be included in urban planning. Faced with the challenges of recurrent floods that affect the environment, this study aims to provide a solid basis for the design of public policies that promote resilience, sustainability and greater social cohesion.

CONTEXT OF THE STUDY AND RELEVANCE OF THE STATE PLAN FOR LAND USE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN TABASCO, MEXICO

In October and November 2020, the states of Chiapas, Tabasco and Veracruz in Mexico suffered the effects of a series of cold fronts and cyclones that generated severe flooding. In particular, the state of Tabasco experienced significant rainfall during November, resulting in severe flooding, landslides and the discharge of water from the Peñitas dam, which critically impacted the region. These storms and their consequences affected approximately 800,000 people, damaging nearly 200,400 homes and 2,000 kilometers of roads, in addition to drainage systems and key urban infrastructure. Thousands of hectares of crops were also flooded, with losses that generated prolonged socioeconomic effects in the region (Enrique et al., 2022).

The magnitude of these events highlighted the lack of adequate territorial planning in Tabasco to face current and future extreme precipitation, derived from both the increase in rainfall attributed to climate change, as well as the scarce updating of planning instruments at the local level. Prior to 2020, the state had the Sustainable Land Management Program of the State of Tabasco (POSTET, 2015), which recognized climate change as a threat to be considered. However, this program lacked adequate integration of municipal governments, since, in 15 of Tabasco's 17 municipalities, the Municipal Urban Development Programs (PMDUs) had not been updated since 1998. Only the municipalities of Centro and Macuspana had recent updates, although still insufficient in terms of capacity to respond to extreme climate events.

On the other hand, POSTET did not contemplate active citizen participation in its design process, highlighting an important shortcoming in the territorial policy for the

construction of environmental governance and territorial resilience: the need to incorporate the population in the detection of problems and the design of strategies adapted to the local context for their solution.

Faced with the disasters of 2020 and understanding the context of growing climate and territorial vulnerability, the Mexican Government considered the formulation of a land-use planning instrument that would comprehensively guide the urban development of the state. In response to this need, the PEOTDU was created as part of a coordinated effort by state and federal authorities that established a new stage for the territorial development of Tabasco; being framed within the Law of Human Settlements, Land Management and Urban Development of the state of Tabasco, it is the first program that seeks to integrate a territorial approach under such regulations.

In this sense, the PEOTDU is an instrument developed with the purpose of analyzing territorial occupation patterns and institutional architecture to improve the conditions of the state, promoting sustainable economic and social growth in human settlements. It also seeks to contribute to the construction of a territorial perspective that affects the welfare of the population by strengthening resilience to extreme events. From this approach, it is expected to be a key tool to understand the dynamics of the territory and to enable the development of appropriate policies and actions for its adaptation to climate change.

As part of this effort, and within the framework of the project "Institutional Strengthening for Resilient Development in Tabasco, Mexico 2020-2025" carried out through the collaboration agreement between the Government of the State of Tabasco and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a territorial perception instrument was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development (SEDATU) and the consultancy Planning, Development and Territory (P-DT), a territorial perception instrument was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development (SEDATU) and the consultancy Planning, Development and Territory (P-DT), in order to strengthen the citizen diagnosis required for the design of the PEOTDU. This collaborative process in the development of the PEOTDU represents an important change in the integration of new public policies based on citizen participation and resilience to climate change.

TERRITORIAL PERCEPTION ANALYSIS

In everyday life, the social appropriation of public spaces is fundamental for them to have an aesthetic value; only after being appropriated and identified by the community can they be interpreted aesthetically and generate interest in their improvement. Similarly, the aesthetic quality of the space, enhances or decreases its use and improves its social perception; an interactive cycle of valuation and use of the environment is created. According to García-Doménech (2014), the interaction between aesthetics and social perception is essential to reduce urban tensions that can lead to political or social conflicts.

Bailly (1979), mentions that the perception of the environment is not universal, it is a subjective process mediated by culture, memory and individual experience; filtering through the senses and context, each individual and community experiences their environment in a diverse and subjective way. In this sense, the structure and dynamics of cities are socially constructed, the identity of the community and its practices are aspects that make up urban culture, being inherent to the space, since they have a physical manifestation that characterizes and contextualizes them.

Morphological and behavioral aspects of urban space have been explored in greater depth in the academic literature; however, the present study sought a more comprehensive analysis that considered both the material conditions and the perceptions of the users.

The built space and the patterns of land use, also called "social resultant", is configured from the urban perception and the behavior of the inhabitants in their environment. From this perspective, it is established that the success of any urban space lies in the capacity to harmonize spatial conditions and collective practices, in order to generate bidirectional relationships between the space and its inhabitants (Vaca Proaño et al., 2023).

In view of the above, this study will allow the identification of functional and aesthetic elements, as well as areas for improvement to strengthen the appropriation of public spaces, in order to contribute to the design of urban policies and strategies that respond to the experience and collective memory of the inhabitants.

CITIES AND CITIZEN PERCEPTION

Cities are complex spaces that shape the lives of their inhabitants and reflect the values, identities and practices that develop in public space; they harbor specific ways of life that would not be possible without a particular spatial configuration. The city structures the codes of coexistence while it is transformed by the practices of its inhabitants, connects the actions of the past, present and future in a shared social fabric that gives rise to the connection between the materiality of urban space and the flow of human interactions in a bidirectional way (Netto, 2017). Therefore, the city also acts as an active agent in the construction of identity and social cohesion, beyond being the scenario in which society de-evolves.

According to Gehl (2011), collective identity is built from private behaviors in private spaces that are manifested through behaviors and practices in the public sphere. Such public behavior in open spaces has a political and cultural meaning; on the other hand, in the private space, it is expressed through the dissemination of individual ideas and activities in collective environments, the latter, when converging in the urban space, configure patterns that represent collective values and strengthen social cohesion.

From this perspective, the identity and character of an urban environment (the city) are constructed from the interpersonal experiences that take place in it, adding an anthropological dimension to its analysis; this dimension is known as "existential space" (Norberg-Schulz, 1975). According to Borja and Muxí (2003), the qualities that generate a considerable increase in the activity of public space are not only aesthetic, but also social, since they require a constant and diverse citizen use that influences citizen perception and therefore, its vitality; although perception is an individual and personal experience, it is influenced by the sociocultural factors inherent to existential space.

Valadez and Durán (2002) point out that environmental perception is intrinsically related to people's capacity to adapt to the characteristics and requirements of the space in which they find themselves, so that the population is capable of facing challenges and situations in the urban environment by integrating memory and culture in their daily interaction in order to act in a conscious and adaptive manner.

Urban identity is a dynamic process that evolves over time and is manifested through the adaptation of the inhabitants, reflected in aspects such as culture, nationalism, social cohesion and civic commitment (Alva and Aldrete, 2011); this identity becomes an indispensable component in urban planning and design by allowing the definition of public policies that strengthen culture and revitalize urban spaces.

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From functionalism, the city is an interdependent system with complex elements that play specific roles and contribute to social cohesion and community well-being. This holistic perspective conceives urban spaces as sceptical not only for interaction, but also for the development of culture and well-being. In this regard, Bailey (1975) determines that every urban phenomenon is the product of a social structure and the dependent interconnection of its parts, which form a social ecosystem that is influenced by the environment and its internal relationships.

In the specific case of Mexico, cities face various challenges related to social issues such as segregation, increasing poverty, unemployment, the growth of the informal economy and the deterioration of the quality of life. In view of the worsening of these problems, a planning approach is required that, beyond considering infrastructure, takes into account the social and cultural needs of the inhabitants in a comprehensive manner.

The new approaches to urban planning seek to go beyond the old models of homogeneous, peripheral and centralized growth and development. They adopt a polycentric and strategic approach based on the construction of "multiple orders", which considers the plurality of powers existing in the city (central, local, business, community), promoting long-term management and integrating both public and private perspectives in order to generate inclusive and sustainable development policies. This approach seeks to foster a sense of collaborative and flexible governance that considers the participation of different actors in order to adapt the city to social and economic changes (Carrión, 2001).

In the modern era, the role of the city is recognized as a strategic asset for globalization and competitiveness, taking up the idea that the city is not only a physical space, but also a socio-political and cultural element. In urban planning, the city is considered as a socio-communicational space that, beyond physical boundaries, promotes interactions and connections that allow for the construction of a networked city. This last concept emphasizes the importance of local and global connections, and the links between infrastructure and cultural dynamics.

Given the above, the perception of the territory acquires greater relevance within the construction of the territorial analysis, it is an important resource to understand the needs and expectations of the population on urban space; integrating the opinions of citizens and social organizations from a human rights and gender perspective. In this sense, the purpose of this study is to conduct an analysis of citizen perception in the context of the PEOTDU in order to integrate the perception of public space and urban identity, facilitating the creation of policies and strategies that reflect the cultural and social diversity of the territory, promoting planning that responds to the real needs of the inhabitants and strengthens social cohesion.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted under the mixed research paradigm with a descriptive scope, according to different authors, through this type of study it is possible to obtain trend descriptions of groups or populations, allowing for a more accurate picture of the phenomenon studied (Arias, 2006; Hernández-Sampieri et al, 2014).

To collect data for the study, a survey was designed to identify citizen perception and needs in relation to priority planning and management issues in order to generate data that allowed the delimitation of a baseline for the formulation of strategies for the development of the PEOTDU.

The survey was developed based on nine planning dimensions identified in the Terms of Reference of the PEOTDU, which represent

key subsystems for territorial planning. However, due to its technical nature, the Territorial Suitability Analysis subsystem was excluded from the perception survey. The focus of the survey was on issues of socialization, perception and intangible dimensions that cannot be easily quantified through technical mapping. Thus, the survey sought to systematize specific and subjective information from citizens on issues that are relevant to the territorial diagnosis but require a qualitative approach for their analysis.

The instrument was composed of 56 questions, divided into two main sections:

Identification: This section consisted of seven questions aimed at capturing general demographic and statistical data, allowing the sociodemographic profile of the respondents to be defined.

Diagnosis: Composed of 49 questions based on eight of the territorial planning subsystems, this section was structured through questions with Likert-type answers in order to evaluate the perception of certain statements, except for seven, which were presented in multiple choice format to address specific issues.

SAMPLE POPULATION AND DISTRIBUTION

To achieve representativeness, the survey was applied to a sample calculated with a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 5%. In this sense, the total population of the state of Tabasco is 2,402,598 inhabitants, so the sample size was 384 participants. To guarantee the representativeness of the sample in all regions of the state, these surveys were distributed among the five regions of Tabasco: Chontalpa, Ríos, Costa, Sierra and Centro. Since the Central area concentrates the largest population, it was decided to select a more significant sample from that region.

Sample Size Calculation

The statistical formula used to determine the sample size was as follows:

$$n = N \cdot Z^2 \cdot p \cdot q / e^2 \cdot (N - 1) Z^2 p q + \cdot\cdot$$

where: n: Sample size sought; N: Size of the population or universe (2,402,598 inhabitants in Tabasco); Z: Statistical parameter based on the desired confidence level (1.96 for 95% confidence); e: Maximum accepted margin of error (0.05); p: Probability of success (0.5); q=1-p: Probability of failure (0.5).

The surveys were applied during a three--month period (May to July 2021), during which citizen participation was encouraged in the different regions to obtain a comprehensive picture of urban and territorial perceptions.

DIMENSIONS OF ANALYSIS

The preparation of the territorial and urban diagnosis in Tabasco required the analysis of eight of the nine essential subsystems, which cover physical dimensions as well as social, economic and cultural aspects. Each of these subsystems has specific sections that are represented, for the most part, through maps that synthesize spatial and environmental data, while other elements of a social and perceptual nature are captured through a citizen survey. These subsystems are detailed below, highlighting the information collected through maps (required by SEDATU) and the qualitative aspects included in the citizen perception survey, designed to gather the population's perspectives on each of these topics:

- Natural-Physical Subsystem: Through this subsystem it is possible to understand the state's natural environment and the ecosystem services available, as well as the natural risks and climate changes to which it is exposed. Questions were included in the survey to identify how these risks are perceived and what opportunities the environment offers for the design of policies that promote resilience and environmental sustainability.

- Socio-Demographic Subsystem: The state's population structure and dynamics were analyzed, considering its distribution, welfare levels and social vulnerability factors. In order to guide more inclusive policies and the adaptation of development strategies based on the social and demographic needs of the territory, questions were included that address perceptions regarding urbanization, poverty and challenges related to social vulnerability.

- Economic Subsystem: This subsystem analyzes the dynamics of economic development, productive vocations of the territory and the main centers of economic activity. The survey explores perceptions related to support for economic development and job opportunities. From this approach it is possible to identify areas where policies can encourage economic growth and improve labor market conditions.

- Cultural and Biocultural Heritage Subsystem: For the design of policies that promote the preservation of heritage and strengthen the cultural identity of the population, the cultural and biocultural wealth of the state is explored, including indigenous heritage, cultural practices and traditions; the survey seeks to identify perspectives on the respect and value given to them.

- Urban-Rural Subsystem: Examines the distribution and conditions for habitability in urban and rural areas, studying infrastructure, services and access to housing. The survey includes questions focused on evaluating satisfaction with access to housing and basic services, with the purpose of formulating policies that contribute to equity and improve habitability conditions in the state.

- Mobility subsystem: The conditions and accessibility of means of transportation, road infrastructure and public transportation are evaluated. The analysis of this subsystem seeks to design a safe, accessible and inclusive mobility system, and therefore includes questions focused on the perception of its quality and accessibility to services.

- Institutional and Governance Subsystem: This subsystem studies the mechanisms of participation and transparency of the State, as well as the governance structure; in order to foster participatory governance by promoting inclusion and strengthening institutional capacities, the survey also identifies opinions on the effectiveness and transparency of local authorities.

- Land and Urban Planning Model: Through the identification of expansion zones, transition areas and priority spaces for ecological or cultural protection, this subsystem synthesizes the results of the previous subsystems. Specifically, the survey explores perceptions about urban expansion and the need to protect natural areas. This combination of technical data and social perception facilitates a balanced development that reconciles expansion with environmental conservation.

The proposed methodology allows combining technical analysis and citizen perception to obtain a comprehensive territorial and urban diagnosis.

RESULTS

The study included the participation of a total of 390 people living in the 17 municipalities of the state of Tabasco, of whom 54.6% were women and 44.9% were men. The age group with the highest representation in the study was 18 to 29 years of age, accounting for 57.4% of the participants; on the other hand, the group with the lowest representation was 60 years of age or older, with a participation of 3.8% of the total (see Table 1 and 2).

A total of 390 surveys were administered with the participation of the following groups:

Genre	Quantity	Percentage
Male	175	44.9%
Female	213	54.6%
No gender identification	2	00.5%
Total	390	100.00%

Table1. Distribution of participants by gender. Own elaboration.

Age	Quantity	Percentage
18-29	224	57.4%
30-39	60	15.4%
40-49	51	13.1%
50-59	40	10.3%
60+	15	3.8%
Total	390	100%

Table2. Distribution of participants by age group. Own elaboration.

These territorial perception surveys made it possible to analyze the opinions and experiences of the population of Tabasco, Mexico in various key aspects of territorial development, such as housing, infrastructure, economy, mobility and governance.

HOUSING AND ACCESSIBILITY

A 68.2% of the participants considered that their housing is adequate for their development, although 12.3% did not share this perception, and 19.5% were neutral. Regarding the possibility of accessing a new home, an important part of the respondents believe that it is relatively accessible to build or buy one, however, 51% consider the opposite, among the main reasons is the dependence on family support, credits or inherited land (See Figure 1). This suggests that, while there is a positive perception of current housing conditions, economic independence to access homeownership remains a challenge.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND MOBILITY

The perception of infrastructure in the municipalities is predominantly negative: 61.8% consider that it is not sufficient for the population, especially in terms of roads, public transportation, health centers, schools, telecommunications and energy. Only 16.4% perceive that their municipality has adequate infrastructure. In terms of accessibility to essential services, 57.7% of respondents indicated that schools, parks and sports facilities are less than a 20-minute walk away; 54.9% report the same accessibility for markets and stores, and 42.8% for health services (See Table 3). However, 50% report that it is difficult to travel quickly to these services without a private vehicle.

It is important to note that health services (hospitals, health centers or clinics) are the services that presented the lowest level of accessibility in the survey (40.2%). In the case of vulnerable populations (the elderly, people with disabilities, women and children), 69.5% of those surveyed believe that it is difficult to get around without a vehicle. A total of 56.4% stated that the use of a private vehicle is necessary in daily life, which stems from the lack of an inclusive pedestrian infrastructure and the deficiencies of public transportation, as well

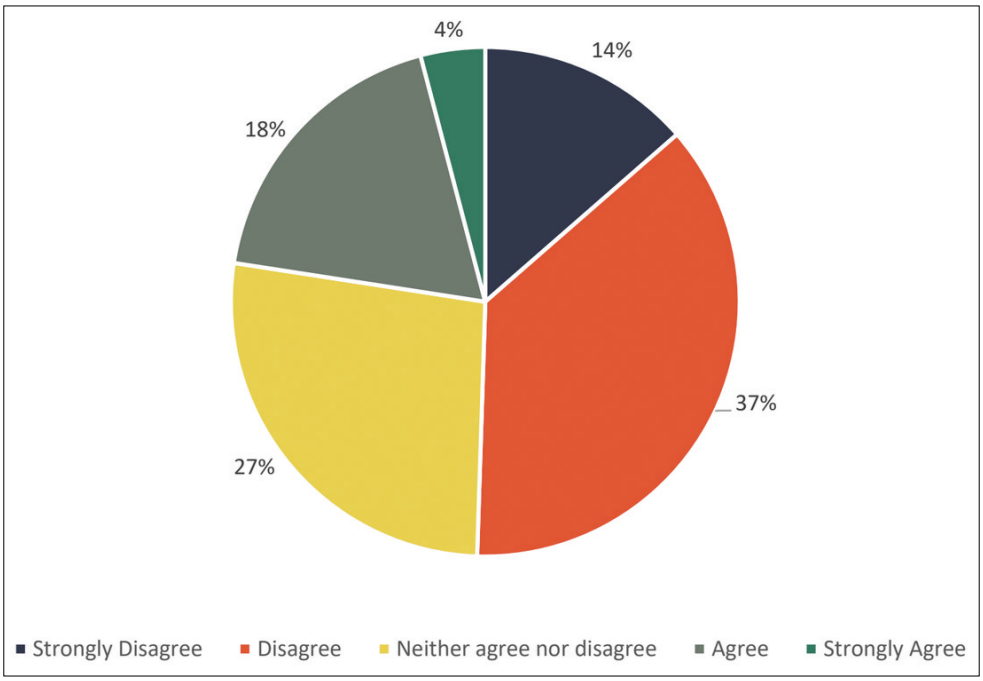

Figure1. Citizen's perspective regarding accessibility to build or buy a house. Own

Access level	Schools, parks and sports facilities	Markets, department stores, or food supply places	Hospitals, health centers or clinics
Very little	10.5%	12.6%	14.6%
Little	15.6%	16.4%	25.6%
Neutral	16.2%	16.2%	16.9%
Something	32.6%	33.1%	27.7%
Much	25.1%	21.8%	15.1%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Table3. Percentage of access to essential services. Own elaboration.

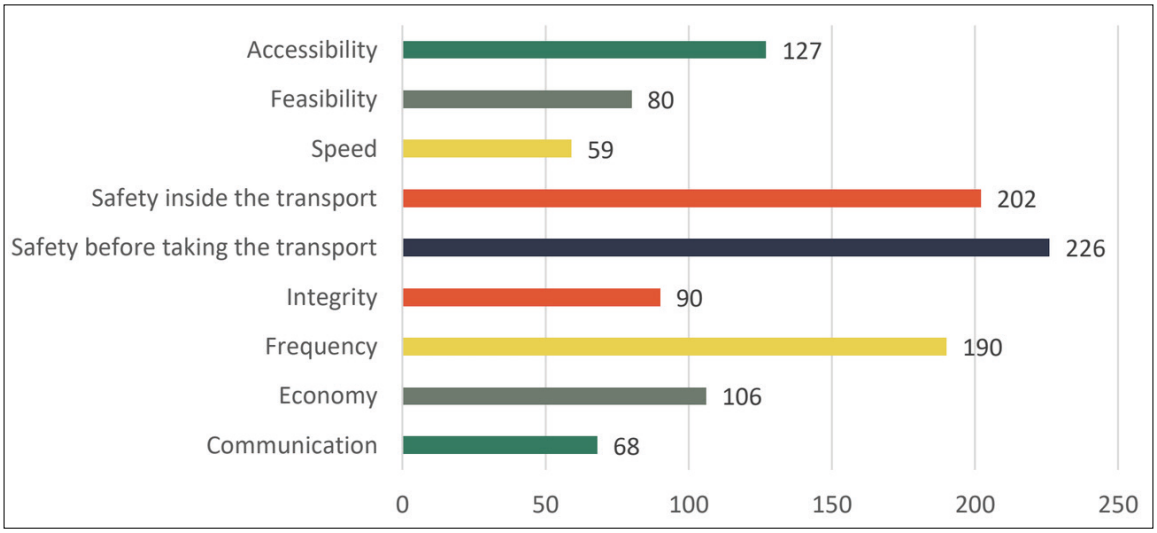

Figure2. Priority areas of improvement for public transportation in the state of Tabasco. Own elaboration.

as the climatic conditions of the region. The survey also revealed significant daily commuting time: 17.4% take between 40 minutes and an hour, and 11% take over an hour for their commute, which is considerable given the size of cities in Tabasco.

Public transportation shows serious problems of safety, frequency, costs and accessibility. When asked about the three priority areas for improvement in this dimension, 57.9% of the participants considered it important to reinforce security at the points of access to transport, as well as security inside the transport (51.8%), the frequency of transport also represents an important area for improvement (48.5) (See Figure 2).

On the other hand, 64.4% of the participants advocated for an investment in non-motorized transportation infrastructure, and 75.9% considered it unsafe to walk in public spaces, 58% of the respondents stated that it is difficult to travel between municipal capitals and communities without a vehicle of their own.

PERCEPTION OF RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES

The survey also addressed the perception of territorial risks, especially with regard to flooding. 32.6% consider that building in Tabasco implies a high risk due to these phenomena, and only 12.1% perceive a low risk. In addition, 32% believe that between 61% and 80% of the population is at risk of flooding, while 39.3% estimate this figure to be between 41% and 60% (See Figure 3). The general perception is that, despite the recognition of the population at risk and the threat of flooding, they consider that its impact may not be critical.

Lack of economic resources was mentioned by 89.5% of respondents as a key reason why people continue to live in at-risk areas; lack of opportunities and lack of knowledge were also weighted as reasons.

In relation to the main pollutants perceived in the state of Tabasco, the pollution of bodies of water (70%) was highlighted, due to the correlation that the population perceives between the lack of environmental protection and the increase of areas vulnerable to flooding, as well as the generation of Urban Solid Waste (49.5%) and the lack of municipal infrastructure for its adequate management.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The perception of poverty in Tabasco is generalized: 34.1% believe that between 60% and 80% of the population lives in poverty, and 39% estimate this figure at 40% to 60%. In addition, 65.9% believe that there are not enough opportunities to get out of this situation, and only 7.4% believe that education facilitates the improvement of economic conditions, also perceiving few opportunities for employment and growth in the state (62.3%). Despite this, respondents show interest in economic activities such as tourism/ecotourism (60.8%), health and educational services (57.2 to 57.4%) and agriculture (54.4%) (See Figure 4), considering investment in these sectors important for the growth of the state, while one of the least weighted by citizens was mining/petrochemicals (12.1%) despite the fact that Tabasco has a strong inclination towards this economic activity.

GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY

A critical aspect for respondents is the perception of governance in Tabasco. 46.6% distrust the capacity of decision makers, while 60.3% feel that there is little accountability in public works and territorial planning. This adds to the perception of low transparency (54.6%) and lack of trust in citizen participation mechanisms (54.8%).

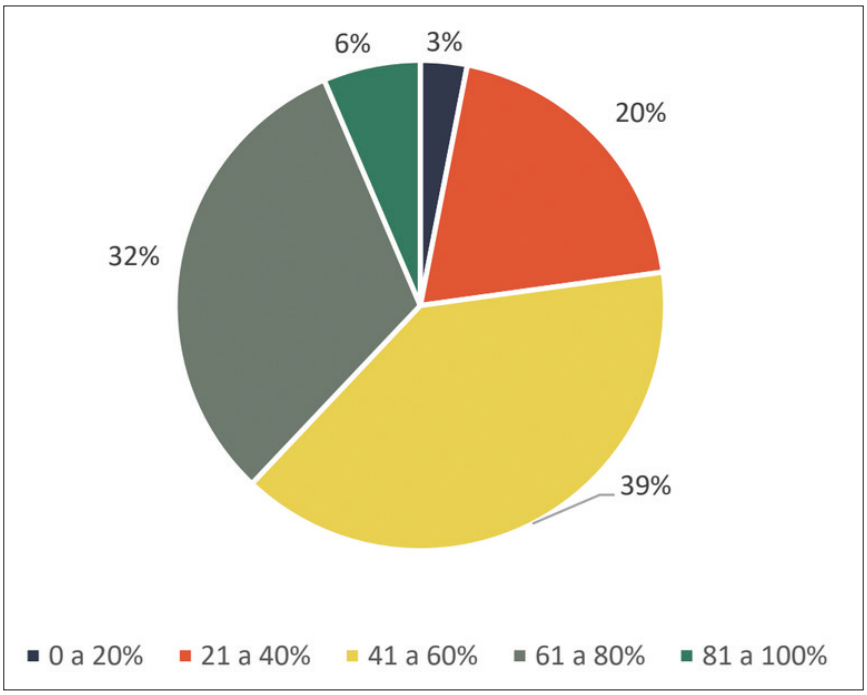

Figure3. Citizen perception of the population living in risk areas in the state of Tabasco. Own elaboration.

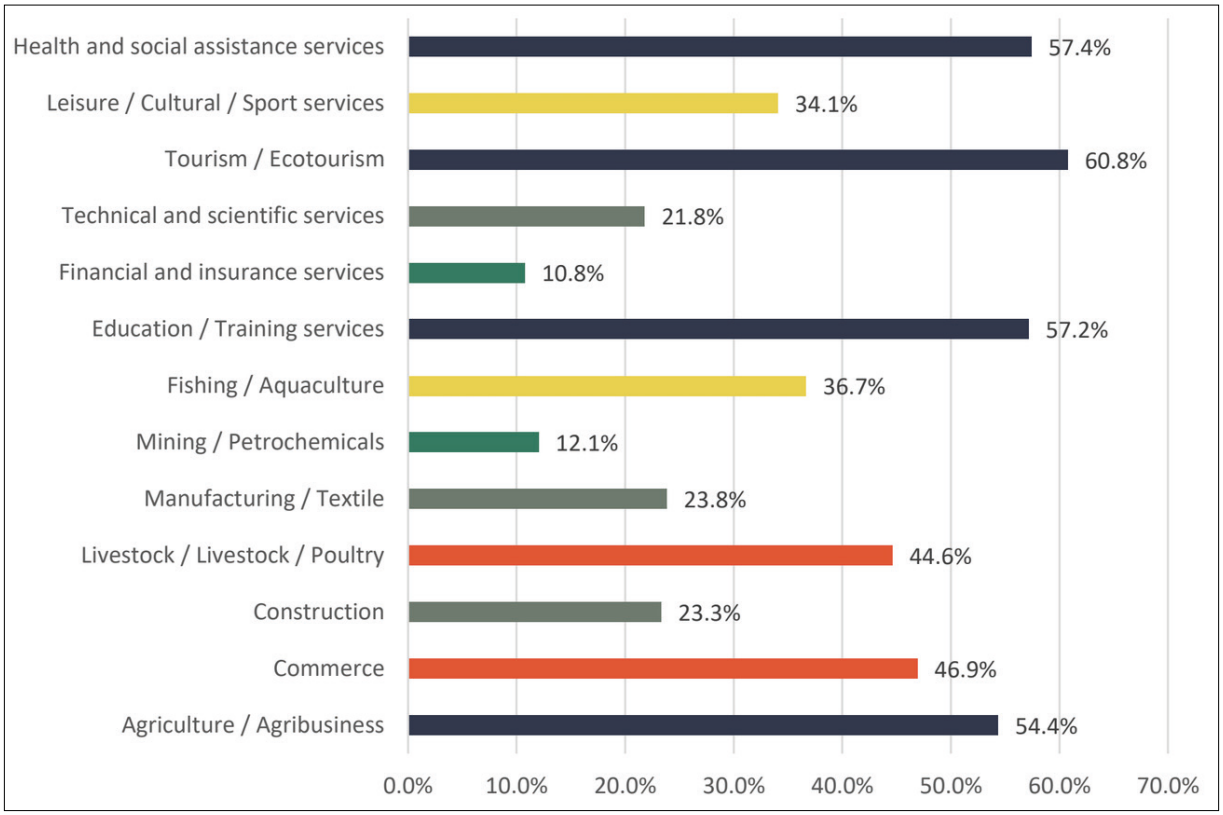

Figure4. Citizen's perspective on the main economic activities in which Tabasco should invest. Own Elaboration.

TABASCO'S STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Finally, the survey identified strengths and weaknesses of Tabasco as perceived by respondents. The main weaknesses include the location of housing in risky areas (50.5%), security problems (47.7%), lack of access to economic resources (39.5%), and deficiencies in the quality of projects and works (33.6%). On the other hand, the main strengths mentioned were natural resources (83.3%), labor capacities (43.6%) and social organization (35.9%), areas that could be used to promote sustainable development in the state.

DISCUSSION

Lefebvre (1974) emphasizes that the city should be designed for those who inhabit and transit it on a daily basis, placing the recognition of the urban experience at the forefront and thus allowing the generation of an environment that satisfies both the user's needs and urban requirements. This philosophy, based on the human being, goes beyond formal planning and regulations, because it promotes a design practice that prioritizes users and their daily lives. From an ethical and social approach, it is assumed that spaces should be designed to respond to the needs and experiences of people, respecting the daily link with the urban environment.

Human-centered urbanism works for the creation of cities that consider their inhabitants from their design, taking the perception of the citizen as a transversal axis that is integrated from the scales of intervention, promoting a functional urban environment that is connected to those who live in it. From this perspective, urban design can become a tool that, beyond organizing the city, fosters a sense of belonging and well-being in its inhabitants.

In Tabasco, the results of the territorial perception survey reflect various challenges that affect not only the quality of life of the population, but also the possibilities for sustainable development in the region. Among the findings are important opportunities for improvement in infrastructure, mobility, risk safety, economic development and governance.

A broad perception of insufficient municipal infrastructure was identified, with deficiencies reported in basic services and mobility, factors that hinder both social and economic development. Mobility is also one of the main challenges, especially for vulnerable groups. The lack of reliable public transportation and the perceived insecurity when walking in pedestrian areas reinforce a dependence on private vehicles, which has both environmental and economic impacts and limits universal accessibility.

An important segment of the population perceives that they live in areas susceptible to flooding, a constant threat in Tabasco given its geography and climate. However, although a large part of the population considers the risk of building in this region to be high, the lack of economic resources is identified as the main obstacle to moving to safer areas or building flood-resistant housing. The perception of risk also affects the population's willingness to start businesses, which limits economic growth. These findings highlight the need to strengthen infrastructure to mitigate flood risk and provide safe and affordable housing solutions.

The perception of poverty in the region is high. Despite an interest in sectors such as ecotourism, agriculture and health services, the population perceives limited employment and professional growth opportunities, which affects talent retention and increases the likelihood of migration to regions with better employment options. This context underscores the need for policies that encourage economic diversification and the creation of quality jobs.

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There is widespread distrust in the government's ability to manage urban development in a transparent and effective manner. The low perception of transparency generates a lack of credibility in governance processes, making it necessary to increase and improve citizen participation mechanisms, which, according to the results of the study, are considered insufficient, hindering collaboration between civil society and institutions to improve territorial planning and management.

Despite the marked challenges facing the state, the population recognized that Tabasco has strategic strengths such as an abundance of natural resources and good social organization. These factors, if managed in a sustainable manner, could boost the economic and social development of the region. For this reason, the need to generate policies for the use of natural resources such as ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, economic diversification, where the main activities are not limited to those related to oil, technological innovation and quality education at all levels, this represents an opportunity for investment and planning that integrates the local population and promotes the protection of the natural environment as a key resource for economic and resilient development.

CONCLUSIONS

The development of an effective urban social project requires the integration of solid communication channels that strengthen the relationship between the urban, the citizenry and the government, in order to promote a city oriented towards cooperation and fostering an inclusive social pact. Likewise, cities must transcend from a local approach to a global perspective, where urban governance committed to collective well-being is consolidated through the appropriation of issues such as identity, social integration, participation, accountability, urban investment and technology (Carrión, 2001).

The study showed that the design and morphology of public space in the state of Tabasco play a key role in promoting social interaction and cohesion in the urban environment. It highlights the need to move towards the prioritization of a user-centered approach to urban design, resulting fundamental for the improvement of livability and the experience of inhabitants in general.

According to the results, urban development in the state of Tabasco, Mexico, faces significant challenges in terms of infrastructure, economic development, governance, mobility and security in the face of natural and anthropogenic risks. Among the main problems identified are the perception of insufficient infrastructure and access to basic services, a lack of accessible mobility, vulnerability to flooding and the perception of poverty, aspects that have a direct impact on the quality of life of the population, also limiting opportunities for growth and sustainable development.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR INTERVENTION

Based on the results of this study, the following priority areas for intervention were identified:

Urban infrastructure and basic services: Given the perceived inadequacy of municipal infrastructure such as transportation, health services and telecommunications networks, it is crucial to improve these areas to ensure equitable access and promote social development.

Mobility and accessibility: There is a latent need for safe and accessible public transportation to better meet the needs of vulnerable populations such as the elderly, people with disabilities, women and children. Currently there is a dependence on the use of private vehicles due to the conditions of the territory, so it is important to improve pedestrian infrastructure and public transportation in order to promote a more sustainable mobility.

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Safety from natural disasters: Due to the region's vulnerability to flooding, there is an urgent need for resilient infrastructure and safer housing, as well as the implementation of measures to mitigate flood risk and protect at-risk housing areas.

Economic diversification and employment: The perception of development opportunities is limited, resulting in low talent retention and increased migration. Sectors such as ecotourism and sustainable agriculture have the potential to foster economic growth and should be strengthened to take advantage of the region's natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Governance and Citizen Participation: Mistrust in public management and the perception of lack of transparency require the creation of citizen participation mechanisms that promote transparency and accountability. Strengthening collaboration between civil society and public institutions is essential to achieve inclusive and legitimate territorial planning.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STATE URBAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1. Establishing more effective participation mechanisms that integrate citizens in the decision-making processes, promoting transparency in the management of resources and projects, could increase the population's trust in the authorities, facilitating collaboration in development projects.

2. In order to contribute to the reduction of vulnerability in the region and improve the perception of safety among the population, it is recommended to increase the development of research that allows the identification of risk areas and the establishment of flood mitigation strategies, based on the inclusion of accessible and resilient housing solutions.

3. Adapting to the pedestrian scale, urban planning should prioritize the creation of safer, more attractive and accessible public spaces, which can strengthen social cohesion and improve the quality of life in urban areas.

4. Investment for economic diversification, specifically in areas such as ecotourism and sustainable agriculture should be presented as a priority in the PEOT-DU, this could enhance economic development, generating jobs and reducing migration.

5. According to the results of the study, the need to improve infrastructure and basic services to facilitate the mobility of inhabitants and reduce dependence on private vehicles was evident, therefore, investment in projects that promote public transportation, safety and universal accessibility should be a priority for the state.

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