

Planet

CONABIO participates, as an advisor and representative of the Mexican government, in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and in other fora such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), among others. As part of the implementation of commitments under the CBD, CONABIO promotes the development of studies and state strategies regarding biodiversity in the country.



CONABIO annually supports research on topics related to biodiversity; supports publications on flora, fauna and ecosystems; publishes the bimonthly journal *Biodiversitas*, which gives researchers the opportunity to disseminate their work; and distributes and provides images and illustrations of species, which together form an image bank in collaboration with various photographers.

CONABIO is a bridge between academia, government and civil society that offers its users the knowledge generated by scientists on biodiversity in Mexico. For its work and results, CONABIO is recognized as one of the foremost institutions of its kind in the world, serving as a model for other countries.



National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity

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National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity



CONABIO

GOBIERNO FEDERAL

Intelligence in decision making for the natural capital of

Mexico



Since 1992, the Mexican institution National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) has been dedicated to the promotion, coordination and support of activities related to knowledge, conservation and use of biodiversity for the benefit of society.

Biodiversity

The focus of CONABIO is biodiversity: this encompasses the diversity of plant and animal species, their genetic variability, the ecosystems of which they are part and the landscapes or regions where ecosystems are located. Biodiversity also includes the ecological and evolutionary processes that occur at gene, species, ecosystem and landscape level, and the cultural processes and traditions that bring about its transformation through direct use.

"She is our mother Earth Goddess that provides food to wild beasts in the desert and grants them with life"

Netzahualcoyotl



Vivir Mejor



Ecosystems

CONABIO monitors priority ecosystems in the country to understand their dynamics, trends and causes of change. Currently, its focus is on mangrove ecosystems and montane cloud forest. Through the collaboration of national experts, information is generated to prioritize areas based on biological, ecological and social criteria and to propose strategies of conservation, management and restoration.

Species



Species information is organized, analyzed and distributed using the National System of Information on Biodiversity (NSIB), which is the backbone of CONABIO. The NSIB integrates repatriated databases of foreign scientific collections and national scientific collections of Mexican species of flora and fauna. This information is analyzed statistically and projected spatially using GIS and remote sensing to examine and model geographical trends and distributions.

Genes

Mexico is a centre of origin and diversification of a wide range of species which form part of the world's diet. CONABIO analyzes the centres of origin and diversification of a variety of domesticated species. CONABIO has developed the Information System of Modified Living Organisms (ISMLO), a public tool that supports the processes of risk analysis, decision making and management. Following the methodology of risk analysis, CONABIO makes recommendations on the introduction of modified living organisms.



Photo: G. Corbelli

Corridors

The Mesoamerican- Mexican Biological Corridor (M-MBC) initiative is located in the states of Chiapas, Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche, and comprises five separate corridors. The corridor initiative promotes productive activities that make sustainable use of biodiversity and maintain connectivity between the protected areas of south-eastern Mexico. Currently, the biological corridors concept extends to Tabasco, Oaxaca and Veracruz.

Regions

CONABIO has analyzed and established regions of priority for biodiversity conservation in Mexico. With the participation of experts from the scientific community, maps of the terrestrial, marine and hydrological regions of priority have been produced in order to support public policies of conservation in the country.

Country



CONABIO has developed a national monitoring system of hot-spots across the country which gives real-time information on the likelihood of wildfires. This information is also distributed to Central America.

CONABIO has produced the *First Country Study*, the *National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation* and the analysis of gaps and omissions in the conservation of terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

In the production of these and other studies, CONABIO calls together the participation of hundreds of researchers and institutions across sectors in which information is current and reliable. A recent example of this collaborative effort is the publication of *Mexico's Natural Capital*, which combined, in five-volumes, the work of 630 specialists, which makes this work the most comprehensive source on the state of biodiversity in Mexico and provides the basis for policies and future action on legislation and sustainability.

"How beautiful the mountains of Mexico! Those peaks with perpetual snow are the most beautiful of the world; those mountain tops with majestic snow that raise among the brilliant vegetation of the tropics ¿Is there something more beautiful?"

Alexander von Humboldt

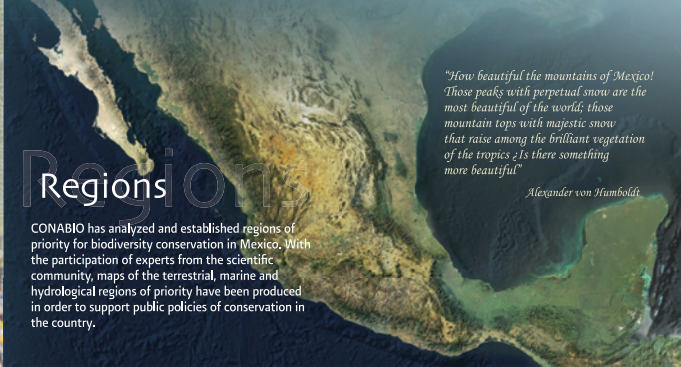


Photo: M. Werners

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