

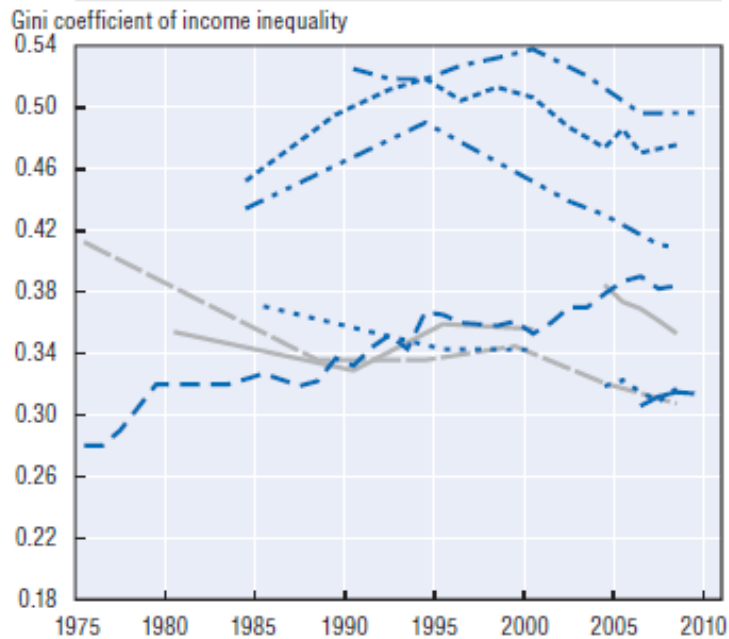
Biodiversity Mainstreaming into Poverty Eradication and Development, example from Mexico



General presentation of Country

Poverty

Panel C. Southern Europe and other selected OECD countries



Biodiversity

Mexico's position compared to other mega-diverse countries (Llorente-Bousquets y Ocegueda 2009)

Country	Vascular plants	Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Amphibians
Rank of Mexico	5	3	8	2	5
Brazil	56,215	578	1,712	630	779
Colombia	48,000	456	1,815	520	634
China	32,200	502	1,221	387	334
Indonesia	29,375	667	1,604	511	300
Mexico	23,424	535	1,096	804	361
Venezuela	21,073	353	1,392	293	315
Ecuador	21,000	271	1,559	374	462
Peru	17,144	441	1,781	298	420
Australia	15,638	376	851	880	224
Madagascar	9,505	165	262	300	234
Congo	6,000	166	597	268	216

Poverty in Mexico

Indicators	1990	2000	2005	2010
Mexico Population (in thousands)	83906	98957	105001	110675
Urban Population Mexico (%)	70.6	72.7	76.5	78.0
Poverty				
Percentage from total (%)	18.7(1989)	15.2	11.7	10.4
People (millions)				11.7
Human Development Index	0.635	0.698	0.727	0.750
Income distribution (Gini Coefficient x100)		51.4 (2002)	52.8	51.5 (2008)

Before realising the importance of mainstreaming

- Location of protected areas result of aesthetic and recreational criteria.
- Single crop farming:
 - Agricultural and forest gene homogeneity seen as progress.
 - Official support for deforestation, land use change for agriculture.
 - Promotion of exotic species insertion without any EI consideration.
- Wildlife seen as exotic pets.
- Huge public works despite their environmental impact.
- Water supply in growing cities, a political must.

What were the reasons for change?

- Environmental crisis.
 - Air pollution in Mexico City.
 - Deforestation.
 - Droughts and floods – climate change.
- Markets' valuation of biodiversity.
 - Organic farming.
 - Ecotourism.
 - Payment for ecosystem services.

How did the transition to biodiversity mainstreaming get put into place?

- Before the Earth summit in Rio '92, the National Commission for the Knowledge and sustainable use of biodiversity (CONABIO) was created.
- 1994, key year for environmental institutions.
 - Mexico signs the NAFTA (CEC) and is admitted in OECD.
 - Environment at a Ministerial level.
 - Starts with GGNP accounting.

The main phases of implementation

- Mainstreaming of biodiversity and mainstreaming of poverty eradication two tier route, finally converging.
- Identity between biodiversity hotspots and poor marginal communities.
- Forests and communal ownership.
- **How real mainstreaming has been?**
- **In discourse or in facts?**

The main phases of implementation

- Institutions: 1994 – 2003
 - Ministry, Forests and NPA Commissions.
- Instruments: 1994 – 2009
 - Main environmental law and a comprehensive legal framework.
 - Statistics and indicators.
 - Diverse programmes – most recent SPCC.
- Budget: 2006 – 2012
- Transversality: 2009 – 2012.

Difficulties and obstacles

- **Not enough...what else? The economy.**
- Defensive budget.
- Perverse subsidies.
- EIA partially applied (lack of SEA).
- Cost –benefits without clear environmental externalities.
- Developers lobbying.
- Economic growth and development legitimated, rather than sustainable development.
- Poverty reduction programmes -> grandfathering.

The principle elements of the mainstreaming policy

- Political.
 - Climate change.
 - Other related environmental crisis.
 - Political legitimacy.
 - Poverty and demography.
 - Internal market weakness.
- Programmatic
 - Subsidies “oportunidades”
 - Payment for Ecosystem Services
 - Programme for Temporal employment

Lessons learned

- Efforts have been in course for almost 20 years.
- More resources used for mainstreaming poverty eradication and biodiversity conservation.
- Even more resources invested in economic growth.
- Insufficient SD efforts.
- Something is failing.
 - Governance priorities.
 - Law enforcement.
 - Public awareness.

Conclusions

- Poverty comes from economic exclusion.
- Changing the economy is necessary.
- Biodiversity loss comes from economic pressure.
- Changing the economy is necessary.
- Where to shift the economy and how is the challenge.