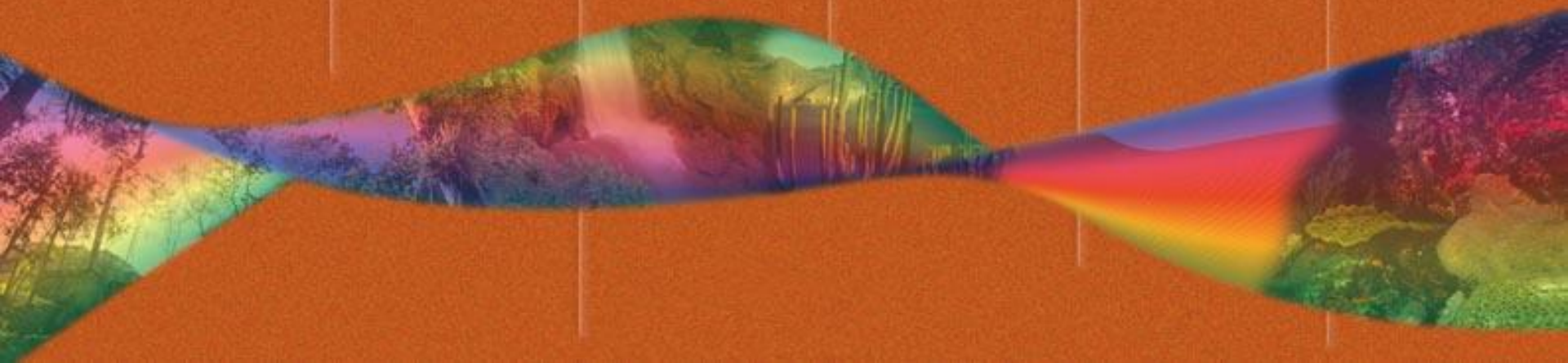




COMISION NACIONAL DE
AREAS NATURALES
PROTEGIDAS



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS IN MEXICO

The Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) is the Primary National Focal Point for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), an autonomous entity of the SEMARNAT, is the agency responsible for enforcing CBD's program of work on protected areas.


Important progress in the implementation of CBD's Program on protected areas has been achieved. Under CBD's framework, Mexico is one of the few countries that have already fulfilled many of the agreed upon goals.



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The objectives incorporated in our National Program on Protected Areas 2007-2012, are compatible with the Program of Work on Protected Areas of CBD.

- ✓ *This has allowed Mexico to contribute to Goal Meta 7 in terms of assuring environmental sustainability, as stated in the Millennium Development Goals, and;*
- ✓ *To support the establishment and maintenance of integral regional and national systems of protected areas (towards 2010 for terrestrial areas and 2012 for marine areas) of CBD's own Program of Work.*

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- o The National Commission on Nature Protected Areas, CONANP, is an Institution with its own identity and specific weight; it has integrated the conservation of Mexico's ecosystems and their biodiversity through its protected areas and priority species at State Policy level.
 - o By means of a new conservation vision, Mexico accepts that without humans conservation makes no sense. Subjacent is an interest to support decent living conditions and opportunities for all people in present and future generations; this involves clearly the participation of local communities.



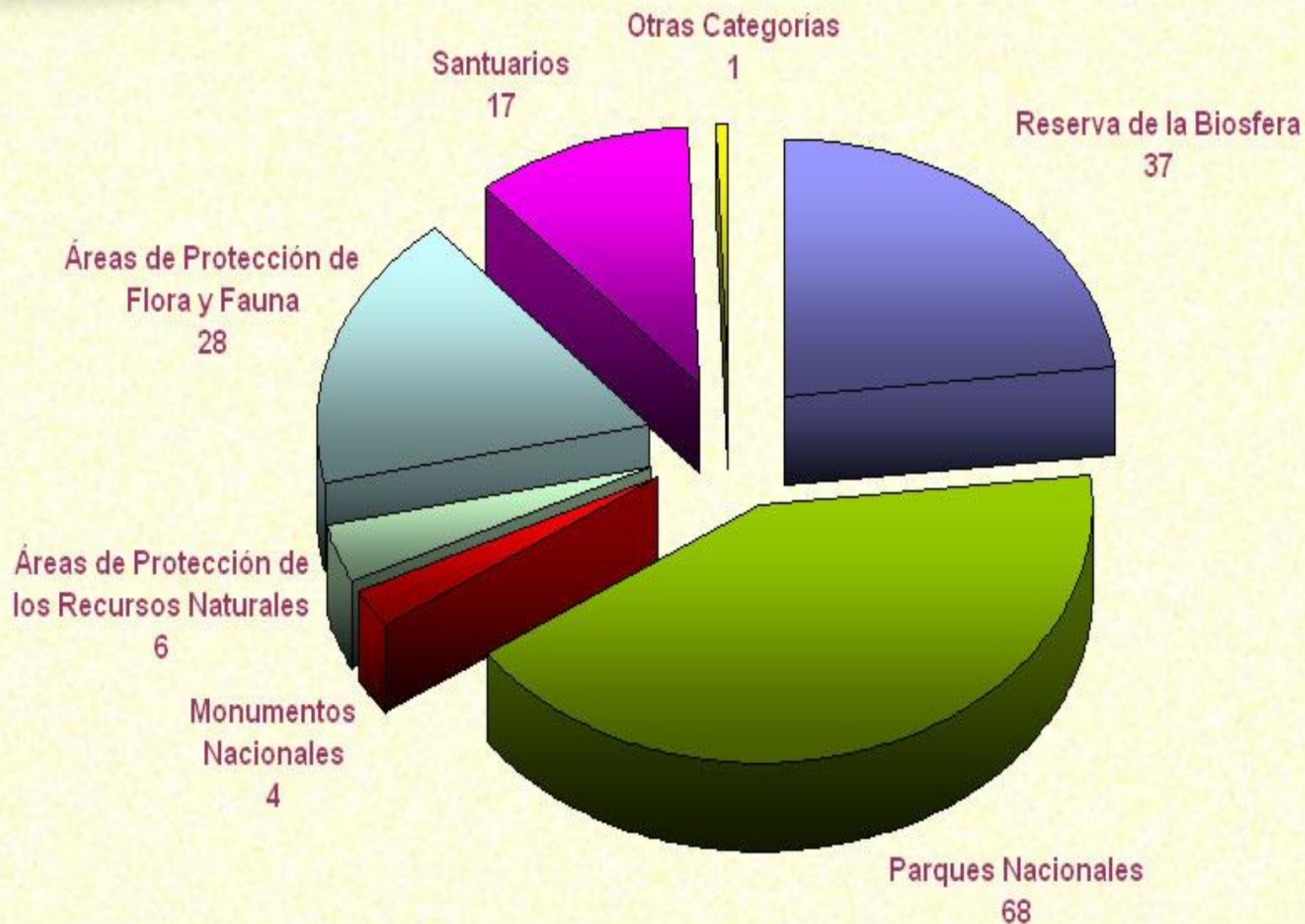
GOALS

During previous years, the establishment of protected areas under federal responsibility had shown significant progress.

- ✓ In 2000 = 119 protected areas
Surface = 15 million hectares
- ✓ In 2008 = 161 protected areas.
Surface = 23 million hectares.
- ✓ By 2012, Mexico expects to reach the goal of 3 million additional hectares of protected areas

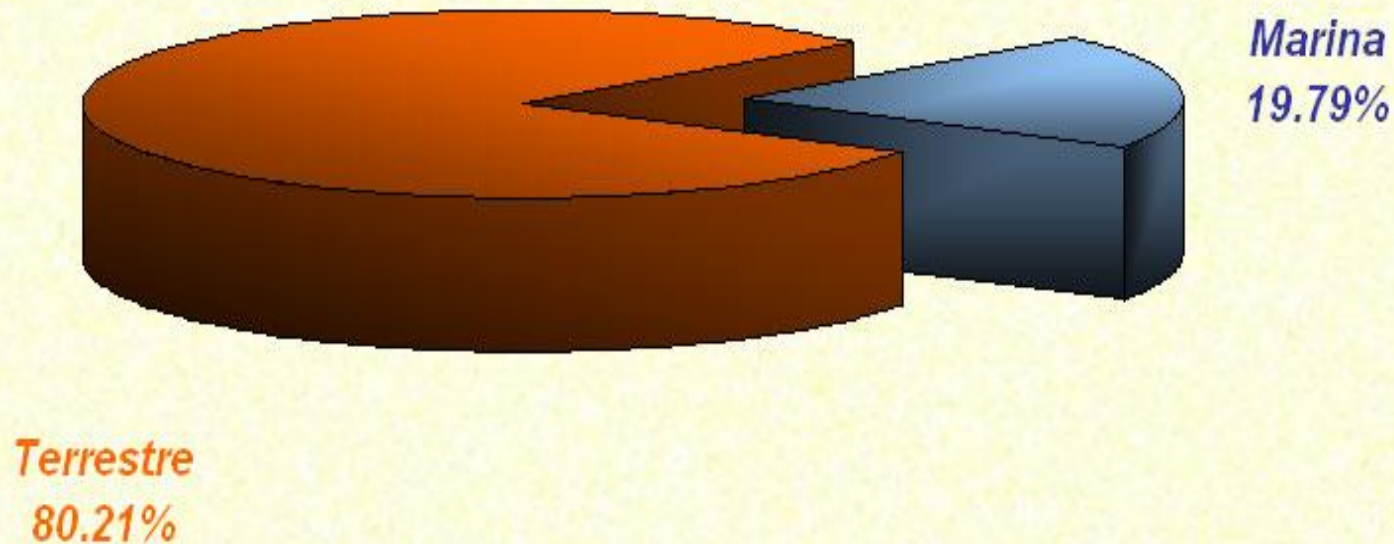


161 Nature Protected Areas



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*Percentage of Terrestrial and Marine Surface
protected by 161 Protected Areas*




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GOALS

- ❖ A substantial increase in the institution's budget was obtained.
- ✓ In 2000, over 13 million USD were destined to carry out its functions
- ✓ For 2008, the available budget will represent more than 90 million USD.

This increase in fiscal funds, together with the negotiation of additional external resources from various national and international organizations, as well as from other donations, made it possible to:


- increase the number of staffed protected areas (from 10 areas in 1993, to 70 in 2002, and more than 100 in 2006)
- develop implementation activities for community projects related to protection, restoration and management



We do our work " *With, By and For People*".

Instruments are available that articulate different programs and projects as complementary investment tools that help to:

- ☐ achieve an institutional synergy that secures the convergence and integration of sectorial programs on projects oriented towards the conservation and sustainable use of resources;
- ☐ promote community participation as the sole planning and implementation platform for diverse actions and projects; and,
- ☐ perform alternative productive activities that generate occupational and income opportunities for communities settled within Protected Areas and other spaces for conservation.



Mexico has made an effort to integrate protected areas to wider terrestrial and marine landscapes, applying the ecosystem approach and taking into account ecological connectivity.

This effort is reflected in a significant contribution of sites to the Global Network of Biosphere Reserves of MAB-UNESCO, the Meso American Biological Corridor, the Meso American Barrier Reef System, the North American Marine Protected Areas Network, the Network of Sister Protected Areas for the Monarch Butterfly, and the Latin American Network of National Parks and other Protected Areas.

The country has also promoted and strengthened collaboration and cooperation, positioning initiatives oriented to more intensive biological diversity actions on conservation and sustainable use.




❑ In 2000, the project "Conservation Culture" was started. It is implemented through an integral Program for Strategic Communication and Identity, which allows to strengthen:


1. the public image of the Commission and,
2. bring in general to the attention of a larger sector of society information about the existence and importance of protected areas.


❑ A large and diverse collection of information products of thematic nature have been prepared, directed each one to specific audiences, and including not only books, but also posters, brochures, screens for exhibits in large visitation events, postal cards for mass distribution, didactic conservation and management programs, guides on specific subjects, and thematic leaflets.





Ecotourism has generated an economic flow to more than 90 protected areas. By charging entry rights to protected areas, a mechanism based on recreational and tourism use is obtained, which not only assures additional funds, but also serves the function of controlling tourism demand, and constitutes an extraordinary vehicle for environmental education and promotion of protected areas.

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- Efforts undertaken by Mexico's government to comply with CBD program goals are exemplified by an initiative convened by the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP).
 - An Executive Group was formed in 2004 with the engaged participation of the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO); the National Institute on Ecology (INE); international and national NGOs, such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Conservation International (CI), and PRONATURA, A.C.

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- The Executive Group is divided in three working subgroups that seek to fulfill the following Program actions, all considered a priority:
 - *Gap Analysis,*
 - *Capacity Building, and*
 - *Funding.*
 - To achieve their goals, members of the Executive Group provide follow-up through quarterly meetings to agreed-upon actions. The working subgroups, in turn, determine their meetings in accordance with a previously established critical path.



Terrestrial GAP Analysis

- o The analysis performed used multiple approaches and scales to detect priority sites for conservation of different groups of species and environments.
- o As a result, of 96 terrestrial eco-regions present in Mexico, 11 are without protection and 50 are sub-represented in the PA's system.
- o It was possible to detect some bias; for instance, a larger proportion of highland sites —above 2800 m— are protected, in comparison with the rest of the country. The mid-altitude lands (between 1000 and 2000 m) are also sub-represented in PA's systems.
- o Considering the types of vegetation (both primary and secondary growth), the lowest levels of protection are present in dry forests (*selvas secas*), the *Tamaulipeco* thorn brush, and pine-oak forests; the gaps are even more severe for such types of vegetation as rain forests and cloud forests (*bosques mesófilos*), of which only scattered remnants of original cover remain.
- o These analyses enable Mexico to develop a general frame for conservation planning at the regional scale.



Marine GAP Analysis

- o The results of the marine Gap Analysis identified 105 priority sites for conservation of Mexican coastal and marine biodiversity, based on digital thematic charts and maps, databases for geo-referenced specimens of marine flora and fauna species, and a list of conservation objects.
- o The analysis showed a low representativity by surface within the system of protected areas. Many of Mexico's federal protected areas had originally been selected for their terrestrial ecosystems, leaving outside —or barely adjacent— coastal water bodies and the littoral zone.
- o This analysis indicates that 78 priority sites are present in the PA's system with less than 20% of their extension. Of these, 21 coastal sites, and part of the continental margin and all the deep-sea sites, are without any kind of protection.
- o This exercise provides a framework for decision-making and identification of priorities related to marine ecosystems and the knowledge, conservation and sustainable management of marine resources.



Building capacity

- ❑ Our task was to perform a capacity analysis in its widest conception; that is, not limiting itself only to staff capabilities, but also including financial aspects, infrastructure, equipment, personnel, and legal framework.
- ❑ At the Regional Diagnosis level, specific aims were as follows:
 1. Identify present institutional and human resource capacity involved in administering protected areas at federal and state level for the 9 administrative regions in which CONANP has divided the country.
 2. Identify the needs and priorities for the development of capacity building.
 3. Systematize the results of the process in databases and in a report on the findings, priorities, and opportunities for the region.



Building capacity


- ❑ The regional diagnosis was divided in three processes.
 - The first included gathering existing basic information for the region and for the protected areas in each region.
 - The second was the application of surveys and questionnaires dealing with institutional analysis (at regional and national level) and human capabilities applied to CONANP staff assigned to PA, NGOs, and state PA systems.
 - The third process included carrying out regional workshops, with the participation of people responsible for the administration of protected areas in the region, representatives of academic institutions, NGOs, and public officials from state and municipal governments, all involved with PA.
- ❑ During these workshops, the "Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Areas Management (RAPPAM)" method developed by WWF was applied, modified by the sub-group in some of its contents in order to provide more precision to questions related to the types of management applied in Mexican protected areas.
- ❑ The results of these workshops provided a rapid assessment concerning management of federal protected areas.



Funding

- The sub-group on Funding prepared the terms of reference for developing a study on the "Creation of sustainable financial plans at a national level to support national protected area systems, including regulatory, legislative, policy, institutional, and other measures required".
- The study is being funded by The Nature Conservancy, the Mexican Nature Conservation Fund, and the Mexican government, through the CONANP. The study got started in 2007.
- Financial implications derived from the findings of the terrestrial and marine GAP analysis and the capacity building components of CBD's Protected Areas Program will be integrated to the study in 2008, along with the corresponding financial strategy and business plans.
- These results will enable the implementation of a National Strategy for Sustainable Funding of Protected Areas.



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- We are aware of the challenges that our countries face while working to comply with the goals set forth in the Program of Work on Protected Areas, which demand, among other, transversal efforts without precedent.
 - We exhort all of you to both redouble and add to these efforts, thus enabling us to further advance and to fulfill in a worthy manner the commitments we have all assumed.

Thank you for your attention