

# Mexico



Mexico makes up only one percent of the Earth's land area but is home to an amazing one-tenth of all of the species known to science. It is also a major center for plant origins and domestication, and a key plant and faunal dispersal corridor. Its rainforests are among the richest reservoirs of biological material on the planet and its diverse habitats are home to a broad array of wildlife including many seasonal residents that migrate to and from the U.S. and other areas. The U.S. and Mexico share 450 species listed under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (*CITES*) and 119 species listed under the Endangered Species Act (*ESA*). These species depend on Mexico for their survival, including sea turtles, gray whale, bats, condor, jaguar, manatee, pronghorn, desert sheep, insects (such as the monarch butterfly), and a large variety of migratory birds.

This astonishing biodiversity faces increasing threats, such as deforestation, unsustainable land-use practices, and illegal wildlife trade. In response, the Service launched the Wildlife Without Borders – Mexico program to build Mexico's human and institutional capacity to conserve and manage species, habitats and ecological processes of global importance, through training associated with nature reserves and other high - diversity areas.

The Wildlife Without Borders – Mexico program represents a cooperative effort between the United States and Mexico to preserve our shared natural heritage through an interdisciplinary approach including sustainable natural resources, adaptive management, conservation biology, environmental education and outreach.

The program's goal and objectives are addressed through three Signature Initiatives: 1) Managing for Excellence (to train nature reserve/natural resource managers); 2) Stewards



**Monarch Butterfly** (*Danaus plexippus*)  
Credit: USFWS

of the Land (to train nature reserve owners/users); and 3) Voices for Nature (to train key stakeholder groups).

The program aims to achieve these goals through joint projects with universities, research centers, non-governmental organizations, private industries, local communities and indigenous people. This is accomplished by: 1) developing specific skills of natural resource managers, addressing critical gaps in formal, and non-formal training, and increasing the number of trained personnel; 2) promoting training that links sound management practices to economic alternatives for buffer-zone communities; and 3) raising the level of awareness and capacity to deliver conservation of key stakeholder groups.

The Wildlife Without Borders – Mexico program provides an efficient delivery mechanism for the conservation of the unique natural resources shared between the U.S. and Mexico.

**Jaguar under forest cover** (*Panthera onca*)  
Credit: Gary Stolz/USFWS





Since its inception in 1995, over 302 projects have been funded for a total funding amount of over 9 million, which has close to \$23.5 million USD in local counterpart contributions. Examples include:

- The Reserve Wardens Certificate Training course at the Natural History and Ecology Institute, in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, has trained 250 individuals from 40 reserves throughout Mexico and Central America, by providing basic tools in a simple manner to enable park rangers to face challenges including logging, illegal wildlife trade, forest fires, and human settlements.
- The Educational Campaign to Curb Illegal Wildlife Trade in Mexico, which provides potential buyers critical information, in a bilingual brochure, regarding illegal wildlife trade. More than 1,000 bilingual brochures were strategically distributed to travelers at airports in cities having the highest incidents of confiscations.
- The Monarch Biosphere Reserve project, which has trained over 2,000 local farmers in sustainable natural resource use, including reforestation, restoration, and ecotourism to protect the monarch's wintering habitat in Mexico.
- The Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve project, which provides training in sustainable natural resource management for rural farmers in the forests of central Mexico, is now reorganized as a
- The Bi-national Environmental Education Program in the U.S. - Mexico Border - PROBEA at the San Diego Natural History Museum, where implementation of a highly successful environmental education curriculum for teachers, focusing on the Tijuana River Watershed and species and ecosystems of the Baja Peninsula, has trained more than 2,000 teachers.



**Resource Management Training**  
Credit: USFWS

UNDP pilot program in regional development and a model for reconciling environmental and socio-economic priorities.

- Certification of Wildlife Professionals Program for Mexican Government State Officials, a training program developed under SEMARNAT's National Institute of Ecology that has certified more than 200 wildlife managers and produced six high-quality technical training manuals in Spanish, now widely used throughout Latin America. Activities emphasize teamwork, conflict management, public outreach, decision-making resource monitoring, landscape ecology, and adaptive management.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
International Affairs  
Division of International Conservation  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 100  
Arlington, VA 22203  
703-358-1754  
703-358-2115/fax  
internationalconservation@fws.gov  
<http://www.fws.gov/international>  
[twitter.com/USFWSInternatl](https://twitter.com/USFWSInternatl)  
[www.facebook.com/USFWSinternationalaffairs](https://www.facebook.com/USFWSinternationalaffairs)  
CFDA# 15.620



June 2012



**Binational Restoration Project** Credit: USFWS

<b>Mexico Program Funding from 2007 through 2011</b>	
Total Number of Grants Awarded	105
Total Funds Distributed through Grants	\$3,497,000
Total Matching/In-kind Funds Leveraged by Grants	\$7,049,000
Total Number of Conservationists Trained	15,000
Total Number of Habitats and Ecosystems Addressed	7