



Mexico

Basic Data in a nutshell	
Area	1,972,550 sq km
Coastline	9,330 km
Administrative division	31 states (estados) and 1 federal district* (distrito federal)
Capital	Mexico D.F. (Distrito Federal)
Population / habitat density	108,700,891 = 55 habitants / sq km
Population growth rate	1.153%
Languages	Spanish, various Mayan, Nahuatl, and other regional indigenous languages
Economy	<u>Agriculture products:</u> corn, wheat, soybeans, rice, beans, cotton, coffee, fruit, tomatoes; beef, poultry, dairy products; wood products <u>Industries:</u> food and beverages, tobacco, chemicals, iron and steel, petroleum, mining, textiles, clothing, motor vehicles, consumer durables, tourism
Terrain	high, rugged mountains; low coastal plains; high plateaus; desert
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - great climatic variation owing to its considerable north-south extension and variations in elevation - northern and central Mexico: high temperatures and moderate to low rainfall - The northern coastal areas: arid - southern Mexico: tropical climate with distinct rainy and dry seasons
Natural Resources	petroleum, silver, copper, gold, lead, zinc, natural gas, timber
Biodiversity hotspots (according to Conservation International)	Mesoamerica; Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands
Read more: - CIA World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/ - Human Development Reports: www.undp.org - biodiversity hotspots: http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx - Library of Congress/Country Study of Mexico: http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mexico.pdf	



(Sources: CIA World Factbook; Biodiversity Hotspots of Conservation International; Library of Congress, Washington/USA)



ONE NATURE · ONE WORLD · OUR FUTURE
COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008



(Source: CIA World Factbook)

Selected indicators of development status

HDI *)	0.829 (rank 52 of 177)
Life expectancy at birth	<i>male</i> : 72.84 years <i>female</i> : 78.56 years
GDP per capita (UNDP, 2005)	10,751 US\$/year
GDP composition by sector	<p>69,90% 26,30% 3,90%</p> <p>■ agriculture ■ industry □ services</p>
Infant mortality	19.63 deaths/1,000 live births
Adult literacy rate (15 years and older)	91.6%
Population using an improved water source 1990/2004	82% / 97%
Children underweight for age (under age 5)	8%
Population below poverty line (2 US\$/day)	11.6%
Gini-Index for income distribution **)	0.461

Go 4 BioDiv

International
Youth Summit 2008



ONE NATURE · ONE WORLD · OUR FUTURE
COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008

Official Development Assistance (ODA) received	
Total amount / per capita (UNDP, 2005)	189,400,000 US\$ / 1.8 US\$
% of ODA in GDP 1990	0.1%
Read more:	
- Human Development Reports: www.undp.org	
- UNDP Statistics for Mexico: http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_MEX.html	

(Sources: UNDP Human Development Report 2007; CIA World Factbook)

*) The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comparative index of social development status. The HDI is calculated on the basis of life expectancy, the literacy rate and real purchasing power per capita. The HDI is expressed as a value between 1 (high) and 0 (low)

***) The Gini coefficient is a measure of personal income distribution within a country or region. It is expressed as a value between 0 (distribution fully equitable) and 1 (distribution fully inequitable)



Biological Diversity in Mexico is ...

...the diversity of ecosystems:

Geographical Units of Mexico:

- Northern Mexico, defined by the Sierra Madre Occidental and the Sierra Madre Oriental; between these two ranges lies the Mexican altiplano
- Baja California
- Yucatan
- Isthmus of Tehuantepec

The Topography is marked by various mountain ranges:

- Sierra Madre Occidental in the West
- Sierra Madre Oriental in the East
- Cordillera Neovolcánica in the center
- Sierra Madre del Sur in the south

Vegetation forms (equivalent to the climatic altitudinal belt):

- *Tierra Caliente*: Mangroves and Palms, rainforest, deciduous forest, cultivation of tropical plants (e.g. cotton)
- *Tierra Templada*: tropical mountain mixed forest, coffee, avocado
- *Tierra Fria*: cloud forest, pine forest, pasture, succulents, mais beans, wheat
- *Tierra Helada*: mountainous pine forest, andine herbs
- *Tierra Nevada*: no vegetation

- ➔ forest area (2005): 642,400 sq km (32.57% of the national area)
- ➔ 56% of the total land area was naturally forested

...the diversity between and within species:

- 64,878 species on the whole
 - 530 species of mammals
 - 137 species of bats
 - 1,100 species of birds
 - 282 species of amphibians, 707 species of reptiles
 - 26,000 species of plants, including 1,300 species of orchids
- ➔ High number of endemic species: 57% of the reptiles, 65% of the amphibians, 10% of the birds, 32% of the mammals
 - ➔ 10% of all terrestrial diversity of the planet can be found in Mexico
 - ➔ Together with Brazil, Colombia and Indonesia, Mexico is ranked on the first places in the list of countries with the highest species richness

Efforts to protect Mexican biodiversity:

- 150 protected areas (2003) which cover 5% of the total land area
- 0.6% of total land area (11,890 sq km) are strictly protected (according to IUCN categories I and II)
- 67 Ramsar Sites (i.a. Bala'an K'aax, Islas Marietas), 36 biosphere reserves (i.a. Los Tuxtlas, Selva El Ocote) and 27 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (i.a. Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California, Sian Ka'an)

Go 4 BioDiv

International
Youth Summit 2008



ONE NATURE · ONE WORLD · OUR FUTURE
COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008

Read more:

- biodiversity hotspots: <http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx>
- Global Environmental Outlook of the UNEP (GEO-4): http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4_Report_Full_en.pdf
- Secretaría de medio ambiente y recursos naturales (SEMARNAT): www.semarnat.gob.mx/
- Comisión nacional para el conocimiento y uso de la biodiversidad (Conabio): <http://www.conabio.gob.mx/>
- National Clearing House Mechanism (CHM): http://www.conabio.gob.mx/institucion/cooperacion_internacional/doctos/cdb.html
- Biodiversity in German Development Cooperation: www.gtz.de/biodiversity
- WWF Mexico: <http://www.wwf.org.mx/wwfmex/>
- Conabio (2006): Natural Capital and Humang Well-Being: http://www.conabio.gob.mx/2ep/images/6/60/NaturalCapital_17abr07.pdf
- Earthtrends Country Profiles: http://earthtrends.wri.org/country_profiles/
- UNESCO World Heritage List: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>
- UNESCO Man and Biosphere: <http://www.unesco.org/mab/>
- Ramsar Sites: <http://www.ramsar.org/sitelist.pdf>

(Sources: Biodiversity Hotspots of Conservation International; CBD Country Profiles; World Resources Insitute – Earthtrends; UNDP 2005; WWF México 2008; SEMARNAT 1999; Conabio: Natural Capital and Humang Well-Being 2006)

Mexicos' current environmental challenges are:

scarcity of hazardous waste disposal facilities

vast expanses of tropical and subtropical forests in the south have been denuded for cattle raising and agriculture

soil erosion → More than 60 percent of land is considered in a total or accelerated state of erosion → desertification

inadequately protected petroleum extraction in the Gulf of Mexico

population growth, rural to urban migration

natural fresh water resources scarce and polluted in north, inaccessible and poor quality in center and extreme southeast

raw sewage and industrial effluents polluting rivers in urban areas

deforestation

serious air and water pollution in the national capital and urban centers along US-Mexico border

land subsidence in Valley of Mexico caused by groundwater depletion

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; CBD Country Profiles)



Cultural diversity in Mexico is based on...

...different ethnic groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mestizo (Amerindian-Spanish) 60% - Amerindian or predominantly Amerindian 30% - white 9% - other 1%
...different religions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roman Catholic 76.5% - Protestant 6.3% (Pentecostal 1.4%, Jehovah's Witnesses 1.1%, other 3.8%) - other 0.3%, unspecified 13.8%, none 3.1%
<p>Read more:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Library of Congress/Country Study of Mexico: http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/profiles/Mexico.pdf 	

(Source: CIA World Factbook)

Ecological Footprint	2.6 global ha/person
Biocapacity	1.7 global ha/person

Within the global comparison, Mexico ranges on place no. 33 - see bar chart:
http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator_detail.cfm?country=MX&indicatorid=13

(Source: www.footprintnetwork.org)