

Veracruz

Conservation actions from the east of Mexico



Veracruz is located in the east of Mexico, between Sierra Madre Oriental and the Gulf of Mexico. It covers an area of 72,410 km² with 745 km of coastline.

It is a very biodiverse state, but also one of the most impacted due to human activities. The main ecosystems are: tropical rain forest, semi-deciduous tropical forest, deciduous tropical forest, desert scrub, pine-oak forest, coniferous forest, cloud forest, mangrove and coastal dunes. The principle cause of biodiversity loss is the land-use change by several productive activities, combined with overuse and illegal trade of species, introduction of invasive alien species and the effects of climate change.

To address the environmental issues, the Government has created the State Ministry of Environment. The environmental legal framework includes laws, regulations and rules of the three government orders. In addition, it involves state institutions and state zonings directly related to biodiversity protection.

| Acronyms | |
|----------|---|
| CONABIO | National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity |
| SEMARNAT | Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources |
| UV | University of Veracruz |
| PROAIRE | State Management Program to Improve Air Quality |

A



The Environmental Fund of Veracruz- an innovative way of ensuring sustainable funding for environmental activities.

The Environmental Fund of Veracruz is a public trust fund of the Government of Veracruz. It has the goal to help civil society organization projects to conserve, restore or preserve the state ecosystems. It also helps projects focused on climate change mitigation, environmental planning and environmental education and communication. All of these projects are made with a holistic view of watershed management.

This public trust fund receives contributions from the following financial sources:

- 1% from voluntary contributions for water service payments (citizenship contributions)
- Matching Funds
- Funds from cooperation agencies
- Private donations
- Environmental compensations
- Vehicle inspection

All this money is used to promote projects and inter-agency coordination mechanisms that caused a positive impact in both environmental conservation and human well-being. The funds are awarded through calls addressed to civil society organizations that have skills and experience about the subject of the calls.



Women of the community of Coyopalan, Veracruz. Images provided by Coordinación General de Comunicación Social del Estado de Veracruz

- 2 Including environmental targets within the State Development Plan
- 3 Setting up the Environmental Fund of Veracruz
- 4 Performing a Green shopping system of the Government of Veracruz

Not all five Strategic Goals are covered due to the following reasons:

Veracruz is working on actions consistent with the meeting of all Aichi Targets. However, so far it has not generated enough information to support the impacts of these actions.

B



The Government of Veracruz through the State Ministry of Environment has set up a monitoring system to assess air quality.

It has four automatic stations in four different cities of the State. Through these stations, compounds and particles identified as harmful are assessed. They are remotely operated by qualified workers who have permanent access from the State Ministry of Environment, and who can review all data generated by the stations and perform different calibration and adjustment activities for the good operation thereof.

Since 2013, this system began operating only with two stations. Then, in 2015, came into operation the other two stations. Currently, the indices of air quality are available in the website of the State Ministry daily.

With this infrastructure and with the support of Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the University of Veracruz (UV) and Clean Air Institute of Washington (CIW) and Clean Air Institute of Washington (CIW) and Clean Air Institute of Washington (CIW), it is possible to develop the first State Management Program to Improve Air Quality (PROAIRE).



Automatic station for air quality monitoring. Image provided by Julio C. Martínez Hernández

- 8 Monitoring and control of atmospheric emissions in the state
- 8 Setting up two new plants for wastewater treatment
- 9 Control and eradication of invasive alien species

E



This strategy was made by the combined efforts of a panel of experts, officials from the three levels of government, and members of civil society organizations.

It intends to become the instrument of planning and execution of biodiversity to guide state public policies through axes and strategic objectives, action lines and specific actions involving different levels of government, productive and development sectors, academic and research institutions, and civil society organizations and all the society.

For its preparation, 4 workshops were held in the three different regions of the State (center, north and south), attended by 197 people from 103 institutions. These workshops allowed that different sectors identify their priorities and perspectives and propose actions and compliance deadlines for the Strategy implementation.

It consists of six strategic axes, which are in line with Aichi Biodiversity Targets:

1. Knowledge
2. Conservation
3. Sustainable Use
4. Culture and Environmental Education
5. Biodiversity Threats
6. Governance

It has 22 action lines and 90 specific actions with stakeholders and implementation deadlines.

The State Biodiversity Strategy was published in 2013, and so far, they have been carried out 30% of specific actions contained in the strategy.



State Biodiversity Strategy presentation. Images provided by Coordinación General de Comunicación Social del Estado de Veracruz

- 17 Drawing up and implementation of the State Biodiversity Strategy: "Estrategia para la Conservación y el Uso Sustentable de la Biodiversidad del Estado de Veracruz"
- 17 Drawing up the State Biodiversity Diagnostic: La Biodiversidad en Veracruz

AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS STRATEGIC GOALS

A Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
- Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.
- Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

B Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
- Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
- Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

C To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
- Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

D Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
- Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

E Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
- Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
- Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

may 2016



IMPRINT

M.I. Beatriz del Valle Cárdenas-Head of Climate Change

State Ministry of Environment

Francisco I. Madero no.3 Col. Centro.

Xalapa, Veracruz

Zip code: 91000.

beatriz.delvalle.sma@gmail.com

The poster template was provided by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Layout by GeoMedia/MediaCompany

