

Wildlife Without Borders

Mexico Program

Mexico makes up only one percent of the Earth's land area but it 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 in 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. Almost 60 threatened or endangered wildlife species are shared between Mexico and the U.S., including sea turtles, gray whales, bats, condor, jaguar, manatee, pronghorn, desert sheep, insects (such as the monarch butterfly), and a wide variety of migratory birds.

This astonishing biodiversity faces increasing threats, such as deforestation, unsustainable land-use practices, and illegal wildlife trade. In 1995, 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.

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 natural resource conservation, capacity building, sustainable ecosystem management and improved information transfer between countries.

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

The program aims to achieve these goals through joint projects with universities, research centers, non-governmental organizations, private industries, and, most importantly, 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.

By bringing together Mexican and American ideas, resources, and people, the Wildlife Without Borders – Mexico program provides an effective and efficient delivery mechanism for the conservation of the unique natural resources shared between the U.S. and Mexico.



Jaguar

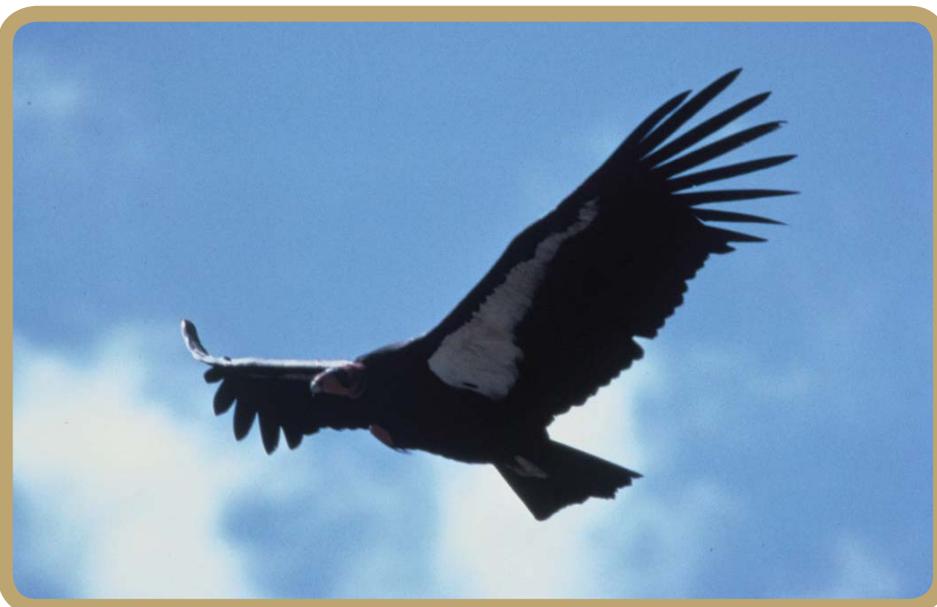
Since its inception in 1995, over 230 projects have been funded for a total funding amount of \$6.8 million, which has close to \$20 million USD in local counterpart contributions. Examples include:

- The Reserve Wardens Certificate Training course at the Natural History and Ecology Institute, in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, 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 peasant 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 peasant farmers in the forests of central Mexico, is recognized as a 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 close to 200 wildlife managers and produced five high-quality technical training manuals in Spanish, which are now widely used throughout Latin America. Activities emphasize teamwork, conflict management, public outreach, decision-making, resource monitoring, landscape ecology, and adaptive management.
- The Bi-national Environmental Education Program in the US-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.

Mexico Program Funding History from 1995 through 2007	
Total Number of Grants Awarded	239
Total Funds Distributed Through Grants	\$6,866,921
Total Partner Contributions Leveraged by Grants	\$19,779,384
Total Number of Conservationists Trained	13,000
Total Number of Habitats and Ecosystems Addressed	7

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California condor
 USFWS



Monarch butterfly
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