

Mexico and CO₂ Emissions

— *Samantha Luna Elizondo, Giselle Marie Trejo Elizondo, Sandra Berlín Olavarrieta, Eduardo González Romero, Ana Cecilia Zavala Trejo*

Mexico is the country with more biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean. It occupies the second and the fourth place with more biodiversity in the world.

It is considered a country with much biodiversity because of our geographic location, with latitude above the Tropic of Cancer in the north and center of the country and near the Equator in the south. The total number of known species is of about 64 878 approximately; it occupies the first place in the world in variety of reptiles (707) and cactus (800) and the second in mammals (491), the fourth in amphibians (282) and 26,000 plant species.

15 countries contribute with 71.4% of greenhouse effect emissions GEI, Mexico occupies the twelfth place with 98 million carbon tons yearly, representing this 1.54% of the world's total; the origin of this GEI emissions go from burning fossil fuels, chemical reactions in industrial processes, changes in use of soil, sanitary deposits, gases escaping from oil wells and the production and use of nitrogen fertilizers principally.

Climate change is environmentally related with changes in biodiversity, loss of forests, reduction of water resources, desertification, worsening of air quality and of stratospheric ozone. In this century the potential impact of climate change in Mexico has been shown with snowfalls in hot weather zones, hurricanes and floods in states like Veracruz, Tabasco and Chiapas which are the ones that have been most seriously affected in physiographic characteristic and biodiversity, suffering important human and economic losses, as well as losing cultivating land.

Mexico is convinced that this decay can be seriously diminished by means of ecologic education, so private and public instances, together with school authorities, apply resources to inform, make conscious and promote an environmental education through advertising campaigns, school contests and carefully structured programs to inform about foresting, ecology-responsible enterprises, efficient non-polluting public transportation programs, campaigns for separating garbage, as well of reusing, reducing and recycling. Personal commitments like change in daily habits separating domestic garbage, conscious use of transportation means, saving and taking advantage of electric power, taking care of water, etc.