



On behalf of:



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for the Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety



of the Federal Republic of Germany

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## IKI Alliance Mexico Newsletter



### News from IKI projects in Mexico

A service provided by the “Mexican–German Climate Change Alliance”

Dear reader,

We are very pleased to send you the second “IKI Alliance Mexico” newsletter! First of all, we would like to apologize for the delay in this newsletter due to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union. Our IKI newsletter aims at presenting recent events in the climate sphere in Mexico, and highlights activities and impacts of IKI projects. With this newsletter and our [blog](#) we aim to promote exchange and synergies among IKI projects in Mexico. The next two newsletters, which will be published by the end of this year and in early 2019, will have a thematic focus, including the contributions by IKI projects to the Agenda 2030. We invite you to share this newsletter and to encourage your colleagues and counterparts to subscribe via our [IKI Alliance Mexico blog](#).

**We hope you enjoy reading!**

**Jasmin Fraatz, Kathrin Ludwig and Claudia Kirschning from the IKI interface team in Mexico**

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## Elections



On July 1, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) was elected the new president of Mexico. As part of his Environmental Agenda, López Obrador has proposed the following initiatives: [NaturAMLO](#), which seeks to promote attention to water care, encourage the development of renewable energy and adjust climate change policy; be part of the Blue Carbon Initiative; include Mexican islands in the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA); and finally, the agenda also supports the Oceans of Mexico plan, a model of sustainable development in coastal

areas. Climate change is an important issue in the new government's agenda because, according to a [study by the Belisario Domínguez Institute](#), 73% of Mexicans consider the fight against climate change a priority.

## Reform of the General Law of Climate Change

### Mexico ratifies its commitment to the Paris Agreement, harmonizing its Climate Change Law

On April 25th, the House of Representatives Chamber of Deputies approved the reform of the General Law of Climate Change (LGCC for its Spanish acronym) with the purpose of fulfilling the conditions of the Paris Agreement. The reform seeks to establish guidelines for the country to formulate, update and take measures to deal with climate change. The goals established in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of mitigation and adaptation are included in the General Law on Climate Change. Likewise, the reform establishes that the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) will be published and that in the first 10 months of entry into force, a pilot program of the Emissions Trading System will be implemented.

## Mexico as a Pioneer in Climate Change, Visit of Al Gore and Women4Climate

"Mexico has long been a champion of the climate agenda," said Al Gore during the 37th Climate Reality Leadership Corps Mexico Training in Mexico City. The former vice president of the United States and environmentalist commented that it is [necessary for Mexico to invest in the energy and transport sector](#), which will be the challenge of the new administration. By doing so, [Mexico will continue to be an example for climate change mitigation measures in Latin America](#).

Relatedly, the Second Annual [Women4Climate](#) Conference was held in Mexico City, an event seeking to support women's initiatives to achieve more sustainable societies. According to a [report from UN Women](#), women and girls are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Therefore, it is essential to empower women through education to guarantee their rights and to include gender perspectives in public policies to combat climate change.



## Mexico on the International Level

The UN Climate Change Secretariat launched a new portal to support the [Talanoa Dialogue](#), where countries will verify progress towards meeting the Paris Agreement on climate change through three questions: Where are we? Where do we want to go? and How do we get there? [The presentation of Mexico](#) is available on this platform. The document prioritizes the legal and institutional framework created by Mexico to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, with special emphasis on the National Climate Change Strategy (ENCC for its Spanish acronym), the Special Program on Climate Change (PECC for its Spanish acronym) and the NDC. In this way, Mexico reiterates its commitment to the Paris Agreement and suggests that all countries, subnational authorities, the private sector and organized civil society should strive to achieve its full implementation.



## Milestones of Mexico's IKI Projects

The second project exchange workshop of IKI in Mexico celebrates the contributions to the Mexican goals of the NDC and the ENBioMex



One year after the start of the IKI interface in Mexico, in April 2018, the second exchange workshop reunited 80 representatives of IKI projects and their implementing partners, who identified the contributions of the IKI projects to the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Mexico and the National Biodiversity Strategy (ENBioMex). Moreover, the participants discussed the benefits of IKI projects towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [Continue reading](#)

## Get to Know an IKI Project: BioPaSOS



[The Biodiversity and Sustainable Agrosilvopastoralist Livestock Landscapes \(BioPaSOS\)](#) project promotes the conservation of biodiversity through climate-smart agrosilvopastoral practices in landscapes dominated by livestock in three regions of Mexico: Campeche, Chiapas and Jalisco. The Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center ([CATIE](#))



implements the project in cooperation with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and its counterparts: the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) and the Mexican National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO).

#### Learn more about BioPaSOS's activities::

- » [Mexico seeks to become a referent country in sustainable livestock](#)
- » [Rural producers share experiences about biodiversity integration in productive processes](#)
- » [Strategic alliances strengthen sustainable livestock in Jalisco, Mexico](#)
- » [Catie and the Autonomous University of Chiapas strengthen interinstitutional collaboration](#)
- » [Rural producers share experiences about biodiversity integration in productive processes](#)

## Climate Action at the Subnational Level

Cities contain more than half of the world's population and emit 75% of global CO<sub>2</sub> through energy consumption. [The magazine Nature](#) emphasized that cities should lead the global fight against climate change since, as the biggest polluters, cities suffer the effects of climate change most. In Mexico, however, there is cause for optimism: [the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group awarded Mexico City first place in the category Cities with the Best Performance in implementing actions against climate change in Latin America](#) . To empower subnational levels to implement the NDC, IKI projects support Mexico's cities and municipalities in their climate actions.

#### Learn more:

- » [Climate smart adaptation in cities at WUF9](#)
- » [States and Municipalities towards the implementation of the NDC](#)
- » [Green infrastructure and climate change forum](#)
- » [Welcome to the digital platform "Climate-smart Adaptation in Cities"](#)
- » [The challenges to promote bike usage as a means of transportation](#)
- » [Climate financing guide for states in Mexico](#)
- » [Sharing experiences on local climate action plans – webinar by VICLIM](#)
- » [Interactive tool on regional efforts to contribute to the NDC and the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

## IKI Private Sector Cooperation



The consequences of climate change are already being felt in the private sector. According to a [KMPG Mexico survey](#), six out of 10 executives in Mexico acknowledge having suffered financially due to environmental or social reasons, and 98% of companies consider the issue of sustainability a critical and relevant factor for the future of their businesses. However, KMPG Mexico also estimated that only [three out of 10 citizens](#) are aware of the General Law on Climate Change (LGCC for its Spanish acronym); and [seven out of 10 companies do not have a CO<sub>2</sub> inventory](#).

- The [project ETS](#) aims to provide the theoretical and technical tools to participate in the design processes and the subsequent implementation of an Emissions Trading System (ETS) in Mexico. It is

a cost-effective instrument to promote mitigation and achieve the country's climate goals. This system is important for the private sector because it can help analyze aspects such as the implications of climate change on competitiveness and the risk of carbon leakage.

- [First technical training course in the private sector for the Emissions Trading System in Mexico](#)
- [How to identify and design a portfolio of low-emissions projects at the business level?](#)
- [Why measure the competitiveness of the Mexican industries in the context of carbon prices and the potential of carbon leaks?](#)

■ Three years after the 2015 Paris Agreement, the water and sanitation sector in Mexico is showing promising results. Despite the difficulties of satisfying user demand, coupled with a complicated legal framework that has led to the unsustainable extraction of water resources, Mexico's water sector has great potential to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Already, it has reduced annual CO<sub>2</sub>e by more than 2,500 tons.

- [Mexico tackles climate change through innovation and the renewal of its water sector](#)

## Biodiversity/REDD+



National Protected Areas concentrate the largest populations of jaguars in Mexico

Mexico is one of 17 megadiverse countries in the world and houses 10% of the planet's biological diversity. As a result, a platform has been developed to account for the number of species in the country. So far, 13 million specimens have been counted, and according to José Sarukhán, coordinator of CONABIO, over the next two years the number is expected to reach 20 million through the National Biodiversity Monitoring System (SNIB), with the support and supervision of researchers, academics and participating citizens. Mexican authorities have developed a legal framework to protect the flora and fauna; for example, the [General Law of Sustainable Forest Development \(2018\)](#) establishes that incentives will not be granted for agricultural activities in deforested areas or for those that encourage land-use changes of forest lands or expand agricultural frontiers.

Biodiversity is also part of the presidential winner's [Environmental Agenda](#). The agenda includes thematic axes to confront conservation challenges, among them the strengthening and promotion of

sustainable biodiversity practices, coordination among dependencies, the application of international instruments and citizen participation.

## Tourist Areas at Risk

One of the effects of climate change is the melting of glaciers in Antarctica caused by rising sea levels, which could cause [Mexican cities like Cancun and Villahermosa to disappear](#). Another area threatened by warming temperature is the [Mesoamerican Reef in the Riviera Maya](#) that serves as a natural barrier to protect the coasts from hurricanes. For this reason, the project "Ecosystem-based Adaptation to Climate Change with the Tourism Sector" ([ADAPTUR](#)) seeks to support the tourism sector in adapting to climate change, reducing the business risk of tourism companies, and protecting the natural assets and services of ecosystems.



Cancun is in position 32 of the 100 most visited cities internationally and is one of the most vulnerable cities to the effects of climate change in Mexico.

## Adaptation to Climate Change



### How to Scale Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Mexico and Central America?

Learning from local experience is essential for the selection of climate change adaptation measures. Nature also plays a crucial role in this process, and strong governance structures are the key vehicle for local implementation of EbA. But how can these proposals and solutions be transferred to other communities, social sectors and levels? Through [project AVE](#), the Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the

Caribbean (ORMACC) and the [IUCN's](#) Environmental Law Centre work in six EbA learning sites in transboundary watersheds of Mesoamerica to scale and build the evidence base about the benefits of the EbA approach.



[Advances and challenges for the NDC and NAP discussed](#)



## at the Second National Forum on Adaptation to Climate Change in Mexico

The Second National Forum on Adaptation to Climate Change was inaugurated in the Senate of the Republic with the objective of consolidating the exchange of information and knowledge in order to strengthen adaptation policies between the government, specialists, academia and national and

international organizations. The forum's key objectives included improving the tools and access to climate change information, ensuring coordination among different sectors (public, private and civil society), promoting Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and reinforcing transparency and accountability. Please refer also to the documents, presentations, and additional information on the [forum's website](#).

## Mainstreaming of Biodiversity and Climate Change in the Agricultural Sector



The Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food SAGARPA is advancing in the sustainable use and conservation of Mexico's biodiversity by improving public policy and governmental programs related to the agricultural sector, and promoting dialogue among farmers, authorities and international organizations.

In addition to this, the Climate Change and Agro-Food Production Agenda and its system of indicators, as well as

SAGARPA's Center for the Integration of Biodiversity, were presented, setting an important international precedent for complying with the agreements reached in the United Nations' Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) on the Convention of Biological Diversity and the SDGs.

To learn more about the agricultural projects promoted, we invite you to read these three articles:

- [Inauguration of the SAGARPA Biodiversity Integration Center](#)
- [The Mexican agro-food sector presented a proposal of public policy in climate change and its system of indicators.](#)
- [Mexico advances the integration of biodiversity in its agricultural sector](#)

## Closure of IKI Projects

- Implemented for approximately five years, the EcoValor Mexico Project integrated an innovative approach to biodiversity conservation. The most important lessons learnt focused on the numerous benefits of Mexico's Protected Natural Areas. [Continue reading](#)
- BioMar sought to improve the conservation of biological diversity in coastal and marine areas in the Gulf of California and promoted the sustainable use of biological resources. After almost six years of work in the Gulf of California region, BioMar presented a video and report summarizing the main results of its program.  
You can access the link to the video here: [BioMar presents the results of its project in the Gulf of California](#)



Manta Ray of the Gulf of California

## Past and Upcoming Events

### Mexico's Third National Assembly against Climate Change

#### Forum - September 17-20

The National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC) organized Mexico's Third National Assembly against Climate Change to discuss the actions and challenges of climate change in Mexico. The event was held from September 17 to 20 at the Interactive Museum of Economics (MIDE) in Mexico City. [Read more](#)

### First Day of Climate Financing in Mexico

#### Forum - September 18

This event aimed to identify Mexico's climate challenges and opportunities, and contribute towards the development of a mobilization strategy for complying with its national and international climate commitments. It also facilitated a space for multi-stakeholder dialogue so that people interested in mitigating and adapting to climate change could share their experiences about allocating, accessing, managing and mobilizing finance to accelerate Mexico's action on climate change. [Read more](#)

### Potentials of Blockchain for Climate Policy Instruments in Latin America

#### Webinar - October 4 and November

Recently, "Blockchain" technology has triggered increased interest as a tool to improve transparency for climate change policy instruments, such as Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems, climate finance and carbon markets. The webinar was the first in a series of two webinars on Blockchain and climate change and the second is scheduled for November 2018. **Please find more information [here](#)**

### International Forum - Digitization of the Energy Sector: An Opportunity for Climate



## Protection?

### Forum - October 15

The forum, organized in the framework of the “[Convergence of Energy and Climate Change Policy in Mexico – CONECC](#)” project, which took place on October 15 in Mexico City, sought to build bridges between the energy and climate change sectors to enhance the contribution of the former to climate protection. The event aimed to establish itself as a meeting place for different public and private actors to promote regulatory, market and technological innovation. In this context, some of the most relevant questions that will be addressed include the following: Does the digitization of the energy sector offer an opportunity for decarbonisation in benefit of climate protection? To what extent can the digital-technological development of the energy sector contribute to the achievement of national goals related to the climate and clean energy? [Read more](#)

## Technology Transfer for Adaptation

### Seminar - October 30

The Mexican-German Climate Change Alliance and the reknown university ITAM organize this seminary. The objective is to present mechanisms and climate technology transfer networks in Latin America, Germany and Mexico for adaptation to climate change. **Please find more information [here](#)**

## NDC Actions for Adaptation in the Water Sector

### Workshop - November 7 and 8

The Mexican Institute of Water Technologies (IMTA) commissioned by the General Directorate for Climate Change Policies (DGPCC) of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and the Mexican-German Climate Change Alliance of the GIZ are preparing the implementation of two NDC actions linked to the water sector. To provide feedback on the operationalization of these two actions with key actors in the water sector, a workshop is being held at the SEMARNAT facilities.

**Closed event (access by invitation)**

## Women4Energy

### Online Course

The online course consists of seven modules and addresses topics about the practices carried out by GIZ in different energy sectors, the company's internal environment and the experiences of the countries where GIZ works. **Click [here](#) to learn how to participate**

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