

## MEGADIVERSE MEXICO

Mexico is one of the main world megadiverse countries. With around 200,000 different species, Mexico is home to the 10 to 12 percent of the world's biodiversity.

In Mexico, there are almost 600 species are used for reforestation, and about 4,000 species have medicinal properties registered, hundreds of exotic, invasive species and tens of thousands with biotechnological potential. Almost 2,500 species are protected by our laws and hundreds of them are used in handicraft or hunting or ornamental purposes.



In Mexico, 170 thousand square kilometers are considered "Protected natural Areas". This includes: 34 reservations of the biosphere (unaltered ecosystems), 64 national parks, 4 natural monuments, 26 areas of protected flora and fauna, 4 areas for natural protection and 17 sanctuaries (zones with a rich diversity of species).

### Megadiversity data:

- ✓ Mexico is fourth in the world, with 26,000 different flora species.
- ✓ Mexico is considered the second country in the world in ecosystems.
- ✓ Mexico is fourth in the world in all species. (2,500 species are protected by Mexican law).

### What is a megadiverse country?

Mexico is considered a "megadiverse" country. This means that Mexico is as part of a selected group of nations that possess the greatest number and diversity of animals and plants, almost 70% of global species diversity.

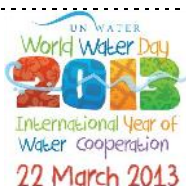
For some authors, the group consists of 12 countries: Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Congo, Madagascar, China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia. Other authors include 17 countries, adding Papua New Guinea, South Africa, USA, Philippines and Venezuela

With the Declaration of Cancun in 2002 the "Megadiverse country's group" was created as a mechanism for consultation and cooperation to promote the priorities of preservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

### Convention on Biological Diversity

In the framework of the United Nations, the international community in its work of promoting multilateral schemes nations participation in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

In 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity was signed during the Earth Summit. Currently, there are 188 nations adhered to it. Its objectives are: 1) biological diversity conservation, 2) use of sustainable components, 3) fair and equitable participation of genetic resources, 4) access to genetic resources; 5) transfer of technology and financing.



### Did you know...

In 2013 the biological diversity week will be celebrated on May 20 to 26. The theme for the international biological diversity (May 22) is "Water and biological diversity" in agreement with the "2013 International Year for Water Cooperation".

### For more information

[http://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/Difusion/SDB/SDB3\\_tema.html](http://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/Difusion/SDB/SDB3_tema.html)