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## 24. ENVIRONMENT

### Mexico's Main Objectives

- Promoting areas of interest for Mexico regarding the environment, such as the sustainable use of biological diversity, the combat of flora and fauna trafficking, air quality, among others.
- Ensuring the continuity of public participation mechanisms and regional cooperation that the North American authorities have developed within the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation framework.

### Benefits for Mexico

- The Chapter helps to ensure that Mexico maintains high environmental protection levels in its territory while promoting trade and investment with its trading partners.
- Encourages sustainable fisheries, care for air quality, and fight against illegal logging and the trafficking of species of flora and fauna.
- Reinforces the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, which has promoted fauna conservancy projects and established the Emission and Contaminants Transfer Registry of 2006.
- Encourages participation by integrating a mechanism through which the public may submit written complaints regarding alleged omissions in compliance with environmental legislation.
- In the event of noncompliance with the commitments established in this Chapter, Mexico may resort to different consultation bodies (High Level or Ministerial) or to the Treaty Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

### Chapter's Main Provisions

- All parties recognize that it is inappropriate to promote trade or investment by weakening the environmental legislation of any of the agreeing countries **(Article 24.4)**.
- Provisions include the need to maintain environmental impact statements in all three countries **(Article 24.7)**, the importance of promoting national and cross-border air quality **(Article 24.11)**, the fight against marine litter, including plastic waste **(Article 24.12)**, and voluntary mechanisms that favor environmental responsibility in the industrial sector **(Article 24.14)**.
- The importance of multilateral environmental agreements is recognized, especially those to which the three countries are parties **(Article 24.8)**.
- All member countries agree to obligations that intend to guarantee the ozone layer's protection through compliance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer **(Article 24.9)** and to combat marine pollution by ships through compliance with the International Convention to Prevent Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention) **(Article 24.10)**.

- This Chapter's provisions also recognize the importance of the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity **(Article 24.15)**.
- Provisions are put into place to guarantee the sustainable management of fisheries, which includes prohibitions to the practice of shark “finning,” and the hunting of large whales for commercial purposes **(Article 24.18)**.
- In the specific case of the management of marine resources, this chapter eliminates fishing subsidies that negatively affect overexploited fish populations and contribute to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing **(Article 24.20)**.
- Commitment to combat the trafficking of wild flora and fauna species through compliance with the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora **(Article 24.22)**.
- The commitments included in this Chapter are subject to the dispute resolution mechanism of the USMCA **(Article 24.32)**.