
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)**.