

The conservation of the environment in Mexico, between challenges and violence

On April 22 we commemorate the International Mother Earth Day, and the care of the environment is one of the most controversial topics in Mexico, as the State promotes important infrastructure works that affect the environment, which causes the murder of activists

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria, through its Welfare Ecosystem Model and its networks called Environment, and Water and Energy, develops projects and integral solutions to promote the care of the environment, and in the meantime, the social development of people in vulnerable situations.

“In Mexico, it has been a long time since scientists, indigenous communities, and members of non-governmental organizations warned about deforestation, loss of biodiversity, pollution on rivers and seas, invasion of megaprojects, and their consequences on the territories”, mentions the website specialized on environment Mongabay Latam.

In its article called “The environmental challenges of Mexico in 2021”, they add that the alerts in the face of environmental emergencies in the country were detected long time ago.

On April 22 we commemorate the International Mother Earth Day, as it was designated by the General Assembly of the United Nations on April 22, 2009 through the resolution A/RES/63/278.

The objective of this day is to widen and diversify the environmental movements all around the world and mobilize them efficiently to build a healthy and sustainable environment, facing climate change, and protecting the Earth for future generations.

The term “Mother Earth” is an expression to refer to the planet Earth and it is used in many countries and regions, which shows the dependence between human beings, living species, and the planet we all live in”, indicates a research by the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH).

Challenges to protect the environment

Mongabay Latam presents a list of five challenges that the environment faces in Mexico, considering interviews with experts in that area. Making environmental issues a priority is the first challenge.

It mentions that Mexico does not have a history of protecting the environment, and as an evidence, we can see that the budget addressed to that decreases year after year. In 2016, 55 thousand million pesos were addressed to the environmental sector, while in 2020 the budget was only 29 thousand million pesos.

Secondly, the article also mentions that we must not ignore climate emergencies, considering that in this country, the government prefers hydrocarbons and coal-fired power stations, when it should do the opposite as 91 percent of the energy used in this country is a result of hydrocarbons.

As a third challenge, it is necessary to implement the Escazú Agreement, ratified by Mexico in November 2020, which makes the USA contribute to the prevention, research, and punishment of attacks, threats, and intimidations against environmental activists.

Another challenge to be aware of is to keep the community forests, in light of the fact that COVID-19 pandemic caused an economic crisis on communities that depend on the wood trade, and many of those communities developed sustainable and environment-friendly projects.

It is also a challenge to create new norms and to change the laws in matters related to forest resources, water, and mining.

Environmental activists under attack

Environmental activists in Mexico are still the target of aggressions, which increased lately and compared to the ones in previous years, as indicated on the “Report about the status of activists of environmental human rights in Mexico, 2020”, performed by the civil association “Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental” (CEMDA), that was published on April 13, 2021.

“The fact of violations to human rights experienced by activists of environmental rights in Mexico, as well as the historical struggle to protect the territory, are currently framed by the pandemic caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2 and the actions taken by the State to face it, which increased the obstacles to protect the environmental human rights”, mentions the report.

It also questions the fact that extractive industries, like mining and mega projects; as well as railway infrastructure works, airports, and oil refineries were considered as essential activities.



States with the highest rates on attacks to activists

8 aggressions to activists took place in Chiapas in 2020

7 in Campeche

6 in Chihuahua

6 in the State of Mexico

5 in Oaxaca

5 in Guerrero

4 in Veracruz

3 in Michoacán



CMT and the protection to the environment

In order to combat the environmental problems caused by degradation and climate change, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria, A.C. (CMT), through its network called Environment, part of its Welfare Ecosystem Model, provides a set of support and integral solutions for getting equipment, developing works or facilities to stop the negative impacts caused on the environment.

In addition to research, training, and certification on environmental issues; new technologies to keep the environment and its resources, as well as environmental projects are important to face climate change.

Moreover, in the network called Water, we promote the use of systems to store rainwater to contribute to save water at home, and to avoid the overuse of groundwater resources. This system was recently installed in the municipality of San Miguel Tenango in Oaxaca.

In the network called Energy we promote the installation of solar heaters to reduce the use of energy produced by fossil fuels. People in San Dionisio Ocoatepec, Oaxaca, were provided with solar heaters subsidized by CMT and Caja Solidaria San Dionisio.

Alianza Felicidad, a successful case

Carbon dioxide is a chemical component that may be found in gaseous form in nature, and the excessive use of it in industry causes the gathering of greenhouse gases, which act like a glass roof on a greenhouse, keeping the heat and warming the planet.

So as to combat this situation, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria aims to increase the access to services related to sustainable and renewable energy through the network called Energy, which is part of its Welfare Ecosystem Model.

More to the point, one of the most successful strategies was Alianza Felicidad, a collaboration with the government in Puebla to subsidize solar heaters, and as a consequence of that, it was possible to stop the production of 70 thousand 943 tons of CO₂, that is to say, greenhouse gases.

This number is similar to avoid:

•270 round-flights from Mexico City to New York in a flight with 270 passengers.

•3 days of all the activities performed in Mexico City.

•The amount of CO₂ produced by the tailpipe of 16 thousand 692 new cars.

Thanks to the strategy Alianza Felicidad, 160 thousand 505 people have hot water at home, and in the meantime, they contribute to the conservation of the planet.

