



# FONDO MEXICANO PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LA NATURALEZA, A.C.

Institución Privada.

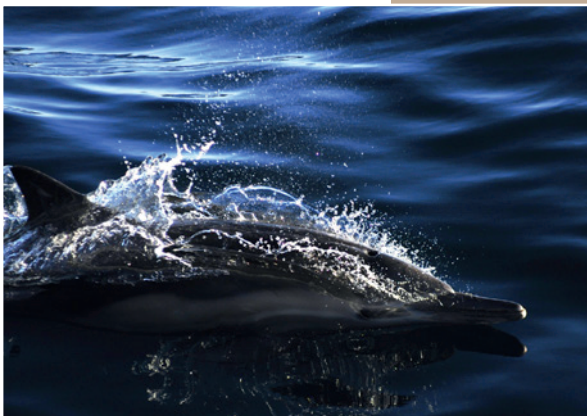
The Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (FMCN) is a non-profit organization that originated in 1992 during the Earth Summit negotiations in Rio de Janeiro. After a participatory consulting process that began in 1993 and lasted 18 months, FMCN was conceived as a private

financial intermediary for the conservation of Mexico's biodiversity. In January 1994, FMCN was incorporated in Mexico as a Civil Association and created its first Associates' Assembly and Board of Directors. Operations began in October 1994 with hiring of the CEO.



## ABOUT US

FMCN is one of the largest and most effective environmental funds in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its mission is to finance and strengthen efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Mexico by channeling financial resources to communities and partner organizations that have experience with and knowledge of conservation challenges at a local level. Thanks to close collaboration with civil society, domestic and international governments, and the private sector, FMCN is recognized in Mexico and abroad as a model organization in seeking new conservation tools and mechanisms, promoting information exchange, and identifying areas of opportunity to contribute to the positive use of our natural capital.



## WHAT WE DO

Over its 19 years of operation, FMCN has funded 996 conservation projects, investing more than 750 million pesos in the field. It has provided technical and financial support to approximately 295 Mexican organizations, received donations from 79 domestic and international donors, and strengthened financing for 24 federal protected areas in close collaboration with the Mexican government. It incubated the now-independent organizations Fund for Communication and Environmental Education and New Ventures Mexico, which is recognized today as the principal promoter of sustainable businesses in Mexico. It also helped found, and plays a strong leadership role in, the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC), a forum for collaboration and diffusion of best practices for the region's more than 30 environmental funds, and the Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund), a regional fund for Mesoamerican Reef conservation. In addition, FMCN runs the MAR Leadership program, which provides training and support for individuals who have innovative ideas for reef conservation. Over 19 years, FMCN has built up an endowment fund of more than 1.5 billion pesos.



Photos: Lorenzo J. de Rosenzweig



Foto: Pilar Sada

## POSITIONING

With its extensive knowledge of environmental challenges and needs in Mexico, efficient, high-quality operational and administrative processes, full-time staff, and highly prestigious Board of Directors, FMCN is an attractive and effective option for administrating and mobilizing resources from a wide array of donors, including multilateral institutions, private foundations, and corporations.

## STRUCTURE

The staff of FMCN consists of 44 employees working in four offices, supervising four conservation programs: Protected Areas, Forests and Basins, Oceans and Coasts, and Special Projects. The General Assembly is the highest authority of the organization and is made up of 32 members representing diverse sectors of society. This entity is responsible for, among other things, recruiting candidates for the Board of Directors and approving the annual report and financial statements.

The next level of authority is the Board of Directors, made up of 19 representatives of different sectors, including businesspeople, social experts, academics, and members of civil society organizations focused on conservation. The Secretary of the Environment in office is an ex officio member of the Board of Directors. The Board is responsible for supervising the CEO of the organization, as well as approving projects and the annual budget. Since its inception, FMCN has had solid leadership from its team, the Board of Directors, the technical committees, and the General Assembly.

## THE FUTURE

In coming years, FMCN's objective is to include four central ideas in all of its programs, which are: conservation leadership, capacity-building, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and contributing to effective environmental policy by generating information and creating informational campaigns directed at key audiences and decision-makers.

Through alliances with Conafor, Conanp, Conapesca, Conabio, and INECC, FMCN significantly increases availability and consistency of long-term financing for the conservation of our natural resources. An example of this new generation of financial instruments and mechanisms is the project "Conservation of Coastal Watersheds in the Context of Climate Change," which is our third project financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and is a multi-institutional initiative (including Conanp, Conafor, INECC, and FMCN) of more than 260 million dollars. Other examples are the Monarch Fund, created with financing from Conafor and FMCN that will provide 120 million pesos in direct support to communities and communal lands in the monarch butterfly region over the next 12 years, and the Baja Marine Initiative, a joint effort of FMCN and The Nature Conservancy Mexico, which will raise over 50 million dollars for the conservation of natural resources in this biodiverse and productive marine and coastal region in northeastern Mexico.

We are optimistic about the next six years of cooperation and synergy with the government, the private sector, civil society organizations, and rural communities, motivated to build a better future for Mexico through conservation, making the best possible use of science, evidence, constructive influence, and strategic alliances to fulfill our institutional mission and to move toward a sustainable and competitive Mexico, a prosperous Mexico, driven by a solid green economy.

To quote Charles F. Kettering:

*We should all be concerned about the future, because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there.*

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