



U.S. – Mexico At a Glance

Scientific Research

September 2008

Megacity Initiative Local and Global Research Observations (MILAGRO)

Using equipment, techniques and methods from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mexico has dramatically improved the air quality in Mexico City and other large cities.

In March 2006, under project MILAGRO, thousands of American, Mexican and other scientists took hundreds of thousands of measurements of air quality in Mexico City.

These data will not only help Mexico, but also other urban areas around the world that are growing into megacities.

The United States and Mexico cooperate on a wide range of scientific research within Mexico. Research conducted by U.S. scientists requires a permit that the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City applies for on behalf of the U.S. researcher and that is issued by the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs. Each application is required to go through a formal approval process established by the government of Mexico. For further information, please see:

http://mexico.usembassy.gov/eng/env_scientific_research.html

Some of the most important agencies involved in the evaluation process are the National Autonomous University of Mexico, the Mexican Navy, the Secretariat of Agriculture, and the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT). Among the agencies involved in the process, SEMARNAT is a key player, not only as the main agency that participates in the technical evaluation of all research proposals, but in the design of related policy.

U.S. applicants account for 90% of all research applications from foreign scientists. The Embassy handles over 50 applications each year from major U.S. government and academic research institutions. Activities include aerial research (atmospheric and wildlife surveys); oceanographic activities (seismic, geology, biology); marine conservation projects (sea turtles, marine mammals, etc.); and freshwater and terrestrial species (plants and animals) field research.

A great number of projects are also conducted under the legal framework of various U.S./Mexican agreements, or under the sponsorship of Mexican collaborators.



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