

WATERSHEDS AND CITIES PROGRAM



WATER, WATERSHEDS AND CITIES

Reliable access to clean water is a growing challenge in Mexico. The proportion of the population living in cities is rising, and water sources are under mounting stress from overexploitation, changes in land use, and inadequate wastewater treatment. With water use on the rise and hydrological cycles less predictable due to climate change, thoughtful stewardship of our water sources has become increasingly complex and urgent.

To address this challenge, civil society organizations (CSO) are playing an important role in linking cities, coastal zones and water recharge areas, as well as strengthening opportunities for interagency collaboration and coordination. The final goal is to transition from the sectoral management of water resources to a shared vision and a comprehensive and inclusive approach of integrated management.

118 679
hectares
under conservation schemes

More than
12 000
hectares
in restoration
processes

12
local
initiatives

Around
2 000 families
receive an economic
compensation for the
provision of environmental
services

More than
11.2
millions
of matching funds
between 2010 y 2015

6 000
households
benefited

Watershed

The Watershed is the ideal geographic unit to manage water with a sustainability perspective.



WATERSHEDS AND CITIES

Since 2001, FMCN implements the Watershed and Cities Program, a model for incubation and acceleration of projects that promote the protection and restoration of watersheds that supply water to cities using a multi-stakeholder approach. This Program is based on the premise that integrated watershed management is the most equitable, sustainable, and cost-effective manner to ensure clean water supply, while protecting watersheds, natural resources and biodiversity.

OPERATION MODEL

The program selects watersheds in which FMCN establishes a partnership with a local NGO. Activities are carried out by these local partners, which foster collaboration among different sectors for the shared objective to improve the health of the watersheds and enhance the operation of the hydrological cycle. The work of these NGOs provides the most efficient way of uniting multiple actors who may otherwise work independently.

Meanwhile, FMCN provides technical and financial support and helps articulate institutional arrangements to support projects and processes in the long term.

CURRENT PARTNERS



RÍO ARRONTE FUNDACIÓN *This program is supported by the Gonzalo Río Arronte Foundation

STRATEGIC GOALS

The Program has five strategic goals:

1. Create awareness of the links between cities and their respective recharge areas;
2. Establish forums where citizens can participate in decision-making processes that impact watershed management
3. Develop financial mechanisms that fund integrated watershed management and compensate watershed service providers;
4. Carry out on-the-ground activities that improve the recharge capacity of watersheds, the livelihoods and quality of life of the communities;
5. Exchange experiences and expertise of all stakeholders involved via a Learning Community.



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