

Mexico's Natural Protected Areas receive the lowest budget in the last 18 years

>> Executive Summary of the report *Cuidar lo que importa: el presupuesto para el cuidado del ambiente y las áreas naturales protegidas en el PPEF 2025* (Caring for What Matters: The Budget for Environmental Care and Natural Protected Areas in Mexico's Federal Expenditure Budget for 2025), Mexico, December, 2024.



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- Mexico's natural protected areas (NPAs) face their lowest budget in 18 years: 1,001 million pesos (50 million USD) for managing 232 NPAs across nearly 100 million hectares.
- Funding per hectare has dropped 81% over the last three administrations, leaving only 10.2 pesos (0.51 USD) per hectare in 2025.
- Environmental budgets now represent just 0.1% of Mexico's GDP, the lowest proportion in nearly two decades.
- The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) will receive only 3.6% of the climate adaptation and mitigation budget, while 75% is allocated to programs such as passenger train projects, and natural gas transportation.



>>> Read the full report (in Spanish) here

The 2025 Federal Expenditure Budget Project (PPEF 2025),¹ reveals a worrying reduction in funding for Mexico's environmental sector, according to an analysis by Noroeste Sociedad Civil para la Sustentabilidad Ambiental (Northwest Civil Society Coalition for Environmental Sustainability, NOSSA). The National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) is one of the most affected agencies, facing a 42% budget cut compared to 2024. This leaves CONANP with only 1,001 million pesos (50 million USD) to manage 232 protected NPAs covering nearly 100 million hectares. At an average of just 10.2 pesos (0.51 USD) per hectare, this budget is grossly insufficient to protect biodiversity or ensure a healthy environment for Mexico's population.

¹ This budget project was approved and published on December 24th, 2024, without any changes.

Misaligned climate priorities

The cuts are part of a broader trend in decreasing environmental investment. The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) will see its 2025 budget reduced by 39.4%, dropping its share to just 0.1% of Mexico's GDP.

Amidst a global climate crisis, Mexico's approach to climate action remains inconsistent. The budget for climate adaptation and mitigation allocates only 3.6% to SEMARNAT in 2025. In contrast, 75% of these funds are devoted to programs such as gas transportation and passenger train projects, including the *Tren Maya* (Mayan Train), which offer debatable contributions to the fight against climate change.

Reduced Oversight and Misallocated Revenues

The Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), responsible for enforcing environmental laws in NPAs, will also face a cut of 94 million pesos (4.7 million USD) in 2025—1.2% less than in 2024. This weakens its capacity to inspect and protect vital ecosystems.

Furthermore, revenue generated by NPA's entry fees is not being fully reinvested in conservation programs. In 2023, only 94% of these funds were returned to CONANP, and most were used for administrative expenses rather than programs for preserving natural areas.

Mexico's lack of investment in the environment jeopardizes its biodiversity, international commitments, and citizens' constitutional right to a healthy environment. As the country faces mounting climate challenges, immediate action is required to protect its natural heritage.

NOSSA urges the Mexican government to reverse these budget cuts and prioritize environmental conservation. Our key recommendations include increasing funding for CONANP and PROFEPA, fully reinvesting NPA's entry fees into conservation efforts, ensuring adequate staffing and resources, and improving transparency and accountability in use of budgets.



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Noroeste Sociedad Civil para la Sustentabilidad Ambiental (NOSSA) is a Mexican coalition of non-governmental, non-profit environmental organizations, founded in 2016, which promotes the effective and transparent care of Mexico's natural protected areas. Its members include Causa Natura (CN), Centro de Colaboración Cívica (CCC), Defensa Ambiental del Noroeste (DAN), Grupo de Financiamiento Climático para América Latina y el Caribe (GFLAC), and Wildlands Network México (WN México).

