

# XIX

## Forum of Ministers of Environment

OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

LOS CABOS, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MÉXICO, FROM 12 TO 14 MARCH, 2014



**MÉXICO**  
GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA



**SEMARNAT**  
SECRETARÍA DE  
MEDIO AMBIENTE  
Y RECURSOS NATURALES



## MESSAGE

Mexico warmly welcomes the participants of the 19th Latin America and Caribbean Ministerial Environment Forum, a platform for dialogue and cooperation devoted to promoting sustainable regional development.

The abundant natural resources of our countries are a vital patrimony. We must join forces to use them in a rational way and preserve them for the benefit of future generations.

Currently, we face environmental challenges that threaten this wealth.

Therefore, we must take a more proactive stance towards combating climate change, halting the loss of biodiversity and promoting the use of renewable energy. The goal is clear: to grow in harmony with nature.

Mexico is committed to Inclusive Green Growth. We are determined to increase productivity and employment, together with social welfare and environmental sustainability.

This is an ideal forum to bring our agenda up to date, strengthen regional institutions and define new programs for cooperation that will enrich our public policies in this sphere.

Care for the environment demands that Latin America and the Caribbean work together. Coordinating our efforts is essential to successfully overcome our shared challenges.

Putting forward a single voice on environment protection as a region means we will play an increasingly significant role in achieving global solutions on issues of vital importance for humanity.

**Welcome to Mexico**

**ENRIQUE PEÑA NIETO**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES**



The international scientific community considers the Gulf of California as one of the few remaining natural laboratories.

In the Peninsula of Baja California and the North Pacific, Ca. 7 millions of hectares are conserved through national parks, biosphere reserves and protected areas.

## MESSAGE

We, Mexicans, are deeply honored to host the XIX Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean on March 2014.

The current administration of President Enrique Peña Nieto privileges the relation with Latin America and the Caribbean as a relevant region to establish a common dialogue, identify cross-cutting issues and concrete cooperation initiatives.

Indeed, our countries are facing big challenges but we, as region, have set solid coordination spaces to reach effective and sustainable progresses of our societies.

We are a privileged area because of our natural resources: we are one of the most important forest region with 23% of the world cover; nearly 31% of the world's freshwater resources are found in Latin America and we have an incomparable biological diversity.

However, population growth and non-sustainable consumption habits have put at risk the enabling environments for agriculture, natural extraction of raw materials and forest resources in the region.

The fast urbanization and population growth constitute important challenges to supply fresh water and effective waste management at the municipalities and cities; as well as revert to the atmospheric pollution.

Undoubtedly, climate change emerges as the most important threaten of the XXI century. It is phenomenon without frontiers and our region is highly vulnerable to its impacts.

In this context, the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is a regional cooperation platform to define concrete measures and practical solutions to the global common challenges.

It has been the space in which we have strengthened our environmental management capacities and the dialogue on the new issues of the global agenda.

The Post- 2015 development agenda lays out new responsibilities for the international community and it is mandatory to renew our paradigm of development in order to guarantee a sustainable economic growth.

We require pragmatic and innovative solutions as well as strong commitment amongst our nations.

In Los Cabos, we will have the opportunity to share successful experiences and proposals to address the global issues that our region faces: climate change, atmospheric pollution, loss of biodiversity and the sustainable management of mercury and solid waste, amongst other challenges.

**JUAN JOSÉ GUERRA ABUD**  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES



The Espiritu Santo Island is a protected area of the Gulf of California Islands, which includes over 900 islands and islets (50 percent of the national insular territory). The marine area was declared as the Espiritu Santo National Park on 10 May, 2007.

Mexico invites the countries of the region to dedicate the work, effort and impulse to achieve successful outcomes during the XIX Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean.

# Provisional Agenda Ministerial Segment

Wednesday, March 12th

## I. Opening Session

- 15:00 - 16:00      Opening remarks  
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources  
Organization of the work
- Adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting
  - Election of the Board Committee
  - Approval of the Agenda

## II. Follow-up to the XVIII Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and review of the decisions to be adopted by the XIX Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

- 16:00 - 17:30      Outcomes of the High Level Experts Meeting to the XIX Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and following-up to the XVIII Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean:
- Environmental Regional Agenda
  - Environmental Education
  - Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production
  - The ILAC Working Group of Environmental Indicators
  - Regional Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution

## III. Ministerial Dialogues

- 17:30 - 19:30      Global Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 1st Session of the Environment Assembly of the UNEP
  - Follow-up of the agreements reached at Rio+20
  - The Post-2015 Development Agenda and sustainable development goals

- 19:30 - 21:30      Cocktail

## Thursday, March 13th

9:00 – 12:30	Cooperation on Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Towards the Conferences in Peru</li><li>• Cooperation options</li></ul>
12:30 -13:00	Press Conference
13:00 -14:30	Lunch Launch of the Study on the Green Economy: México. PNUMA
15:00 - 17:00	Cooperation on Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
17:00 -19:00	Cooperation on Chemicals and Waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Towards the implementation of Minamata Agreement</li></ul>
19:00 -21:00	Dinner

## Friday, March 14th

8:30 - 9:00 Press Conference

### **IV. Field Trip and lunch in the Mar de Cortés (Ministers or Heads of Delegation, special invites)**

9:00 - 15:00 Field Trip and Launch

16:00 -17:00 Ministerial Dialogues  
Celebration of the 2014 International Year of Small Island Development States

### **V. Other issues**

17:00 - 17:30

### **VI. Review of the Draft Final Report of the XIX Meeting of the Forum and approval of the Ministerial Declaration**

17:30 - 18:00 The delegations will review the Draft Final Report

### **VII. Closing session of the XIX Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.**

18:00 - 18:30 Closing Message

# General Information

## Registration

Ministers and delegates attending the Forum are required to send their details to the following e-mails:

[rolac.foromin@pnuma.org](mailto:rolac.foromin@pnuma.org)

[uca@semarnat.gob.mx](mailto:uca@semarnat.gob.mx)

The number of delegates to whom we can provide financing support is limited to two (officers) per country.

## Liaison office

The contact person is the Head of the International Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Phone: +52 (55) 56 28 39 07

E- mail address: [uca@semarnat.gob.mx](mailto:uca@semarnat.gob.mx)

## Visas and Requirements to Visit Mexico

Participants at the XIX Session of the Forum must complete the formalities of passports, visas and/or consular seals requirements, if necessary, to visit Mexico.

For information on visa requirements and immigration procedures please consult the website of the National Immigration Institute of Mexico:

- List of countries that require visa to visit México:  
[http://www.inm.gob.mx/index.php/page/Paises\\_Visa/en.html](http://www.inm.gob.mx/index.php/page/Paises_Visa/en.html)
- List of countries that don't require visa to visit Mexico:  
[http://www.inm.gob.mx/index.php/page/Paises\\_No\\_Visa/en.html](http://www.inm.gob.mx/index.php/page/Paises_No_Visa/en.html)
- List of Mexican Embassies abroad:  
<http://www.sre.gob.mx/index.php/representaciones/embajadas-de-mexico-en-el-exterior>

## Organization of the Meeting

The Preparatory Meeting of Experts of the XIX Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held from March 11 to 12, 2014.

The Ministerial Segment will be held from March 12 to 14, 2014.



## Documents

The documents of the XIX Meeting will be integrated by UNEP. They will be available at UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean web site.

Participants are requested to bring copies of the working documents available in the web site of the Forum. In this way, we are looking to diminish the paper consumption and with it minimize the environmental impact associated with printing and document reproduction.

## Transportation

Transportation Los Cabos international airport-hotel- Los Cabos international airport will be provided to Ministers+1.

## Business Center

In addition to the Conference Room and the bilateral meeting rooms, there will be available a room for press conferences.

There will also be a business center with computers, internet access, printers and photocopying facilities.

Rooms for bilateral meetings will also be available.

Delegations should inform the date, time of arrival and departure, as well as the number of people participating in the event.

## Electric Supply

The supply voltage in Mexico is 110 – 120V 60 Hz, plug types are A and B.



## Communications

The international code for Mexico is: +52

The area code for Mexico City is 55.

The area code for Los Cabos is 624.

## Currency and Exchange Rate

The official currency in Mexico is the Mexican Peso, the currency exchange is 13.50 pesos per United States dollar USD (approximately). Participants are recommended to change dollars for pesos in the Los Cabos Airport, although Hotels also offer the service of currency exchange.

Most of the establishments accept credit cards as American Express, Master Card and Visa, but participants should consider that small establishments only accept cash as payment.

## Weather

The weather in Los Cabos is hot, with an average temperature of 26oC, stable through most of the year.

## Hospitals

- Hospital Amerimed Los Cabos,  
Paseo de las Misiones establishmet 1, Plaza Cabo Rey, Golf Camp, C.P. 23406,  
Phone Number: +52 (624)105-8550
- Blue Medical Net,  
Transpeninsular Drive Way km 6.3, Cabo Bello, Plaza Del Rey, C.P 23410,  
Phone Number: +52 (624)104-3910
- Cruz Roja, (Red Cross)  
Blvd Antonio Mijares S/N, San Jose Del Cabo Centro, C.P 23400, BCS  
Phone Number: +52 (624) 142 2188

## Gastronomy

Los Cabos offers a wide variety of cuisine based on fresh sea food from the Mar de Cortés and the Pacific Ocean: fish, mollusks, crustaceans, among others.

<http://www.visitmexico.com/es/los-cabos>



The islands and protected areas of the Gulf of California are on the list of World Natural Heritage of the UNESCO since 14 July, 2005.

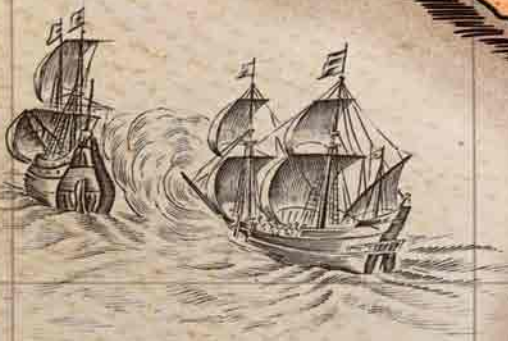


Balandra, a protected area, has the largest mangrove within the bay of La Paz. It is one of the few unpolluted mangrove in an arid region.

Baja California Sur  
México

Baja California Sur

Golfo de California



Océano Pacífico

Loreto

Sierra de la Giganta


La Paz

Cabo Pulmo

San José del Cabo  
Cabo San Lucas

Los Cabos





## Venue of the event

# Los Cabos

It consists in Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo, State of Baja California Sur. It is located in the southern part of the Peninsula, 220 km. (134 mi.) from La Paz. It extends across 28,000 km<sup>2</sup> and it is considered one of the major destinations in Mexico.

The Arch of Los Cabos, a rock formation sculpted by the sea at the tip of the Baja Peninsula is the distinctive landmark of Cabo San Lucas, where the Pacific Ocean meets the Gulf of California, declared as a Human Patrimony by UNESCO.

## Touristic attractions

# La Paz

It is the capital city of the State of Baja California Sur. La Paz is located on the southern coast of the Peninsula of California, 215 km south of Comondú village in Ciudad Constitución, 202 km north of Cabo San Lucas, a town from Los Cabos and 81 kilometers from "Todos Santos". Jacques Cousteau called La Paz the "Aquarium of the world".

La Paz bay is one of the main fascinations of the peninsula, characterized by its calm beaches and water sports.

Stand out places like the Island of the Holy Spirit, which is composed of mangroves in their inlets, cactaceae, copal and countless endemic species representative of the desert flora, unique in Mexico.

# Loreto

It is located about 350 km (220 mi) north from the state capital, La Paz, and is the first Spanish settlement in the State.

Its main attractions are Misión de San Francisco Javier and Misión Nuestra Señora de Loreto, historical buildings with immeasurable value and architectural beauty founded in the 18th century.

# Sierra de la Giganta

It runs from Bahía Concepción to the northern part of Bahía de la Paz. It is a place with a lot of endemism for terrestrial vertebrates and cactaceae. It also has highly representative arid mountainous region of the peninsula.

In the surrounding mountains of Loreto were found cave paintings, executed 10,000 years ago.

Just 15 km from Loreto there are located Cuevas Pintadas, an archaeological site with cave paintings in red, black, white and yellow rocks including La Pingüica.



# World Cultural and Natural Heritage

## Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaíno



The pronghorn is the second fastest animal in the world and is part of the biodiversity of Mexico.



Few migratory phenomena represent an adventure such as the arrival of the gray whale to the Baja California.

# Islas y áreas protegidas del Golfo de California



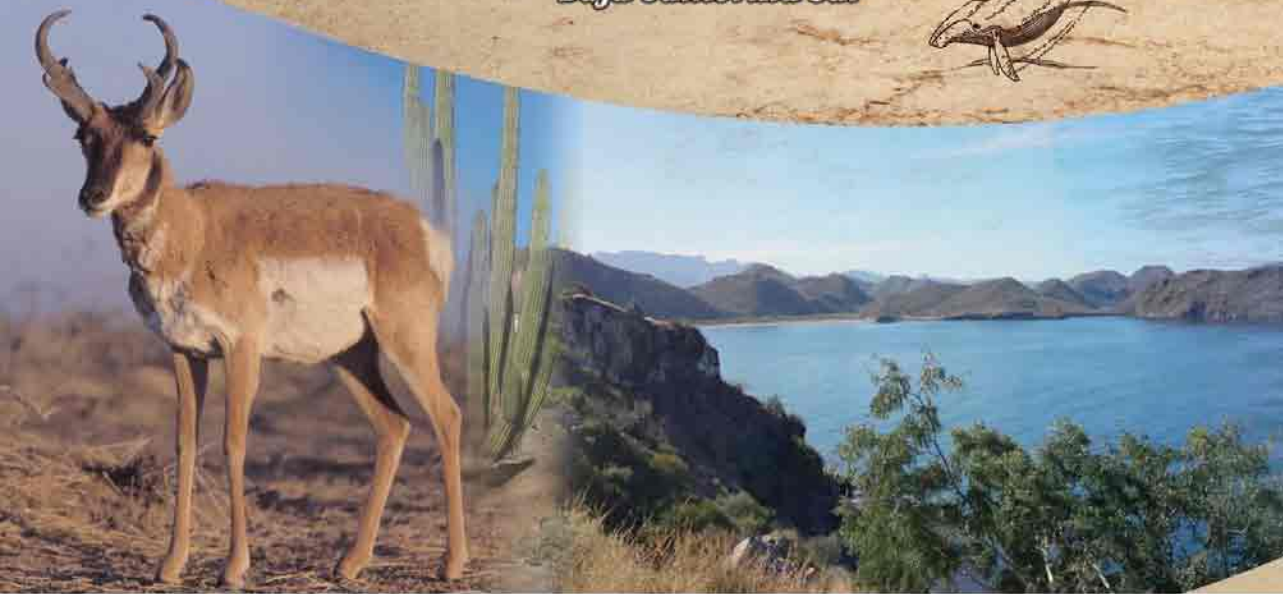
Mexico plays an outstanding role in the protection of marine mammals, including whales, manatees, sea lions and the vaquita.



Baja California Sur is a refuge for migratory birds, over 200 species pass through Mexican territory on their way across the continent.



*Los Cabos*  
*Baja California Sur*



[www.semarnat.gob.mx](http://www.semarnat.gob.mx)

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