

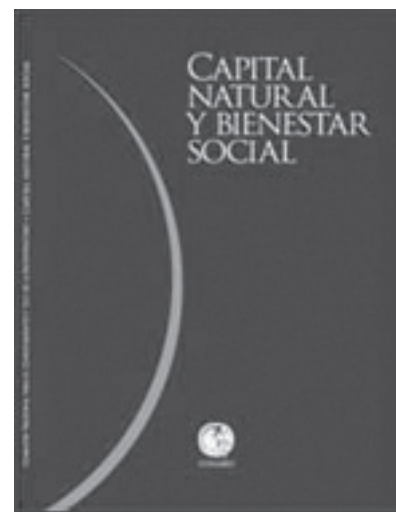
Natural capital and social well being

The first study of the country was conducted under the coordination of CONABIO and published in 1998. The majority of information came from literature sources dating from before 1995. The study was a first attempt to utilize a descriptive summary to raise awareness of the biodiversity of Mexico, and also complied with agreements entered into by Mexico, in signing and ratifying the Convention on Biological Diversity.

A greater quantity of complete and reliable information exists today, and this should be integrated and made available to stakeholders at all levels of government and society. Since the first study of the country was conducted, there has been an increase, both in number of stakeholders and in their demand for reliable and up to date information.

The fundamental objective of the Second Study of the Country, which is currently under preparation, is to provide the most comprehensive source of primary, current, descriptive, analyzed and summarized information on the state of knowledge, conservation and sustainable use of Mexican biodiversity and the environmental services it provides.

This study is characterised by the wide participation of numerous experts, and makes an unprecedented effort to provide fundamental information and solid evidence for decision makers. It attempts to lay the groundwork for an



environmental agenda in Mexico for the coming decade, and will form a useful and attractive tool for legislators, executive officials in different levels of government, academia, civil organizations, industry, media and the general public.

In June 2006, once the content of the chapters had been well outlined, a summary was published (**Natural Capital and Social Well Being**). This presented the main ideas and thoughts contained within the study, with the aim of contributing to the national debate during the process of governmental change at that time, and to stress the importance of incorporating environmental vision, particularly in the conservation and use of biodiversity in national development planning for the period 2006-2012.