

One of the first priorities of the government of President Ernesto Zedillo when it came to power in December 1994, was to establish a new secretariat for the environment, the *Secretaría del Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales y Pesca (SEMARNAP)*, Secretariat of the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries. It took over the environmental responsibilities of two other departments. These changes appear to have superceded most of the former government's programs. The *Programa Nacional de Protección Ambiental*, National Program for Environmental Protection, was due to expire in 1994 in any event. The *CNA's* water program is still technically in place, but on hold. The division of responsibility between federal departments and agencies remains in some doubt as *SEMARNAP* gradually exerts its jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, the *Departamento del Distrito Federal (DDF)*, Department of the Federal District, responsible for the Mexico City area, is in the process of enacting its own environmental laws and will soon play a much larger role in enforcement. The main agencies responsible for environmental purchases under the new regime are described in the following sections.

SECRETARIAT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND FISHERIES

A new secretariat called the *Secretaría del Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales y Pesca (SEMARNAP)*, Secretariat of the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries, now has overall responsibility for the environment, including regulation and enforcement.

Previously, environmental issues were handled by the *Secretaría de Desarrollo Social (SEDESOL)*, Secretariat of Social Development. *SEDESOL* continues to have overall responsibility for urban planning, which includes some involvement in wastewater and solid waste issues. At the same time, the *Comisión Nacional del Agua (CNA)*, National Water Commission, and the *Instituto Mexicano de Tecnología del Agua (IMTA)*, Mexican Institute of Water Technology, were transferred to *SEMARNAP* from the *Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos (SARH)*, Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources. Since the new secretariat is still in the process of organization, there is some uncertainty about how powerful a voice it will have. With a budget of only N \$4 billion pesos, roughly US \$670 million in July 1995, it has insufficient resources to make major improvements. Some observers speculate that the agencies that administer environmental policies and programs will have considerable autonomy and that they will attempt to use private sector participation to bolster their programs. The four principal agencies involved are the following:

- *Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INECO)*, National Institute of Ecology
- *Procuraduría Federal para la Protección del Ambiente (PROFEPA)*, Federal Office for Environmental Protection