

- training and communications;
- science and technology;
- civic participation; and
- international co-operation.

The Program sets fundamental guidelines for environmental management involving a decentralized approach. It recognizes that the need to stimulate economic growth, while giving priority attention to care for the environment, will require a long-term, co-ordinated effort from all sectors of Mexican society and includes practical actions to attain its goals, distinguishing between compulsory actions, those which require government co-ordination, those requiring social co-operation and persuasive activities designed to foster and increase public participation.

Sustainable development principles and the integration of environmental concerns into economic decision-making, are at the core of the Mexican National Program for Environmental Protection. In addition, the Program illustrates the willingness of Mexico to work internationally for environmental improvement, both at bilateral and global levels. It is an ambitious document that demonstrates a commitment to deal with environmental issues.

D. AIR POLLUTION

To implement the 1988 Law, Mexico has adopted two regulations related to air pollution and numerous TENs under those two regulations. The broader of the two regulations covers general provisions; stationary source controls; mobile source controls; establishment of a national air quality monitoring system; and enforcement, including sanctions. The second regulation, much narrower in scope, is designed to address air pollution in Mexico City and surrounding areas by regulating traffic, motor vehicle emissions, and vehicle inspections. Most of the TENs issued under these regulations address air pollution from specific types of stationary sources and from various classes of mobile sources. Others set forth procedural requirements for special permitting, test methods and procedures, etc.

Mexico's air pollution program, like that of Canada, involves the adoption of ambient air quality standards for specific pollutants. Mexico has issued such standards, called "maximum permissible levels" (MPLs), for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and total suspended particulates (TSP), and plans to issue standards for lead and particulate matter (PM₁₀). Unlike the Canadian system, which generally leaves the implementation of national standards to the provinces, a federal source permit program is used in Mexico to apply the ambient standards.

The maximum permissible level ambient standards are used for information purposes (i.e., comparing actual pollution levels with the maximum permissible levels) and for triggering "contingency plans" in Mexico City. These plans call for cutbacks in production by certain industries when pollution reaches designated levels and when meteorological conditions indicate that concentrations would not decrease without a cutback in emissions.

After receiving and reviewing a permit application, SEDESOL sets the emission limits for the permit. When a technical standard has been promulgated for that source category, the