

Indigenists and ecologists of Mexico's Southeast are the new filibusters

by Carlos Cota Meza

Filibuster: (West Indian English: *Flibutor*.) One who freely loots; a pirate of the Antilles Sea (British, Dutch, and French) who battled the Spanish sea trade; British, Dutch, French, and American adventurers of the second half of the 19th century who invaded various Latin American countries to seize them as geopolitical possessions. The most famous, William Walker (British), became President of Nicaragua in 1956.

At first surreptitiously, but now openly, Mexican territory is being pared away. This is occurring under the auspices of the federal government's ecological policy through, first, the Department of Urban Development and Ecology, and now through the National Ecology Institute, which is but an enclave of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF, formerly the World Wildlife Fund). The WWF, as we have extensively documented in *EIR*, is an activist branch of the British royal family and of the oligarchical caste it heads.

The pretext for re-designing the territorial division of Mexico's states, economic regions, and international borders has been the ecologist policy, with its "Natural Protected Areas," which are in turn divided into "Biosphere Reserves" and "Special Biosphere Reserves," both with their "buffer zones," national parks, and areas of protection for forest and water flora and fauna. This was the original policy of the Department of Urban Development and Ecology, essentially created by the WWF during the Miguel de la Madrid administration (1982-88), of the General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection (1989), and now of the National Ecology Institute (1993).

The WWF is the sole and exclusive creator, designer, implementer, and financier of this policy which, through the Zapatista uprising in Chiapas, will attempt to plunge Mexico during the next six years of the incoming Ernesto Zedillo government into *separatist* and *autonomist* wars under the pretext of "preserving nature" and thousands of years of Mexico's "cultural heritage." They will try to create an independent republic out of Mexico's Southeast. Should they succeed, this will mean the political and economic death of Mexico as a nation-state, because, in part, 96% of the nation's oil production today is centered in this region.

The objective of this ecologist policy, and of the puppet-

masters of the House of Windsor, is that of preventing sovereign nations from using their natural resources, within their own territory, to achieve the economic development of their people. Without this development, these nations are certain to be visited by starvation, war, disease, and death, which is how the ecologist-malthusians intend to guarantee their population-reduction aims.

Some even admit their filibustering intentions. In a recent interview, a board member of the British Council in Mexico acknowledged that there are currently in Mexico several ecologist companies which operate with a "filibustering approach. Above all, [there is] David Winder's Sinergos, which receives aid from AID," the U. S. Agency for International Development. The man explained that the British Council, Great Britain's principal entity for cultural relations through its embassies, is a direct dependency of the Overseas Development Council, which is virtually one and the same with the WWF regarding the promotion of ecologism—the two institutions sponsor and finance many of the same projects.

The WWF in Mexico

Few in Mexico are aware that the WWF has operated in the country since 1968, and currently has two main offices in Mexico. The one in the Federal District supervises operations on a national scale, and the one in Oaxaca coordinates and administrates projects in the country's Southeast.

According to its book *Mexico Program 1993-1996*, in the chapter entitled "Threats to Mexico's Natural Diversity," the WWF lists the principal threats as "agriculture and cattle-raising. . . . Each of the ecological regions is affected by agriculture and cattle ranching." Says the WWF program, "The unsustainable use of resources is rapidly extinguishing not only Mexico's natural habitat but also its cultural heritage." Any policy designed "to preserve Mexico's biological diversity must also include conservation of its rich cultural heritage. A large percentage of the population in some areas is indigenous. . . . [These are] groups which still exhibit close ties to their traditional culture."

Fully aware of what their policy entails, the WWF's *Mexico Program 1993-1996* counterposes its defense of "traditional culture" to the economic problems which the nation must resolve in the immediate future. "To maintain the 110 million Mexicans anticipated by the beginning of the 21st

century, high-level agriculture will need to be developed," says the WWF. The concentration of the population in "great urban centers" causes "environmental problems [like] pollution of the air, solid waste, drainage, water supply and invasion of green areas." It then aims its guns against one of its main enemies: oil production, which, says the WWF, "generates oil, plastics, fertilizers, pesticides, and contaminates the water, the air and the soil."

The conclusion is very simple. Mexico's natural resources, according to the ecologist dogma, cannot be exploited as long as their *unsustainable development* threatens the Indians' "cultural heritage," or even affects the habitat of invertebrate organisms. It doesn't matter to the WWF that, by not exploiting these resources and without developing agriculture and cattle farming, it is guaranteed that the "110 million Mexicans anticipated by the beginning of the 21st century" will die of hunger or will annihilate each other in internecine and separatist wars.

Territorial areas under WWF 'protection'

Not accidentally, the WWF's greatest interest in Mexico is in its Southeast. Oaxaca could be, without exaggeration, the "capital" of a new "southeast ecologist republic" whose border with Mexico would be the trans-isthmus highway. There already exist 2,144,178 hectares of protected areas in this region. The advances of the WWF in this area can be seen in **Map 1**.

On Sept. 8 of this year, the Department of Social Development, together with other government, private, and multilateral agencies, announced that the old border conflict between Oaxaca and Chiapas had been solved by incorporating 40,945 hectares belonging to the Zoque Indian tribe into a vast biosphere reserve on the Oaxaca side dubbed Los Chimalapas. With this accord, the "largest ecological reserve in the country and the fourth largest in the world in size and in importance" was created. The Zoque Indians will now serve as "custodians" for 600,000 hectares of forest and "areas of enormous biological importance," such as the habitat of the jaguar, the tapir, the quetzal, the harpy eagle, the spider monkey, and various other species of mammals, reptiles, and fish.

According to the WWF's *Mexico Program*, a large section of Chimalapas has been "preserved from human impact," i.e., Indians. However, it still "finds itself threatened" by the construction of roads, of a dam on the El Corte River, by colonization, and by the "poorly planned development" of agriculture and cattle ranches. North of Los Chimalapas, the "protected areas" run along the Uxpanapa River (see 13 on Map 1) in the state of Veracruz, and toward the east along the El Ocote forest (3) in Chiapas.

The "management and conservation of natural resources" in Chiapas is a top priority for the WWF, such that it maintains various centers of "education, training, research, conservation and sustainable use in the Lacandona Jungle," located in Marques de Comillas (bordering Guatemala) and

Projects financed by the WWF in Mexico

In 1987, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) financed the meeting of the National Institute for the Investigation of Biological Resources, where 79 areas of national territory were identified for "the conservation of biological diversity." In 1989, the WWF created, in collaboration with the U.S. National Park Service and Department of Urban Development and Ecology, a training course for administrators, researchers, and workers in Protected Natural Areas, based at the Antonio Narro University in Saltillo, Coahuila.

The WWF financed the creation of the General Directorate of Legal Affairs of the Department of Urban Development and Ecology, as well as the First National Congress on Ecological Law (Guadalajara, Jalisco, May 28-31, 1990), which "updated" all the ecological initiatives of this century. It financed the elaboration of environmental laws in the states of Queretaro, Tlaxcala, Oaxaca, San Luis Potosí, Puebla, and Morelos.

In November 1988, the government closed down the National Institute for the Investigation of Biological Resources and transferred its activities to Ecosfera, A.C., which, together with Cultura Ecologica, A.C., is considered among WWF's premier programs in Ibero-America.

WWF financing for private organizations (all of them non-governmental organizations, or NGOs) is widespread and varied, and includes all of the so-called "base organizations" of ecological activists. Among these are Pronatura and Fundamat (both with offices in several Mexican states), as well as Monarca, A.C. (Michoacán), Friends of Sian Ka'an in Quintana Roo and Yucatán, and Ullin, A.C. in Chiapas. The latter has been financed since 1984 by the WWF and by the University of Florida's Program for Studies in Tropical Conservation. In Oaxaca, the WWF has financed Maderas del Pueblo, A.C.; the National Committee for the Defense of Los Chimalapas; Ecologist Pact; Anadebes; Biocenosis, A.C., and the Society for the Study of Biotic Resources of Oaxaca.

Described by the WWF as one of its "strategic initiatives," the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature is currently in the process of being established as a substitute for the offices of the WWF in Mexico.

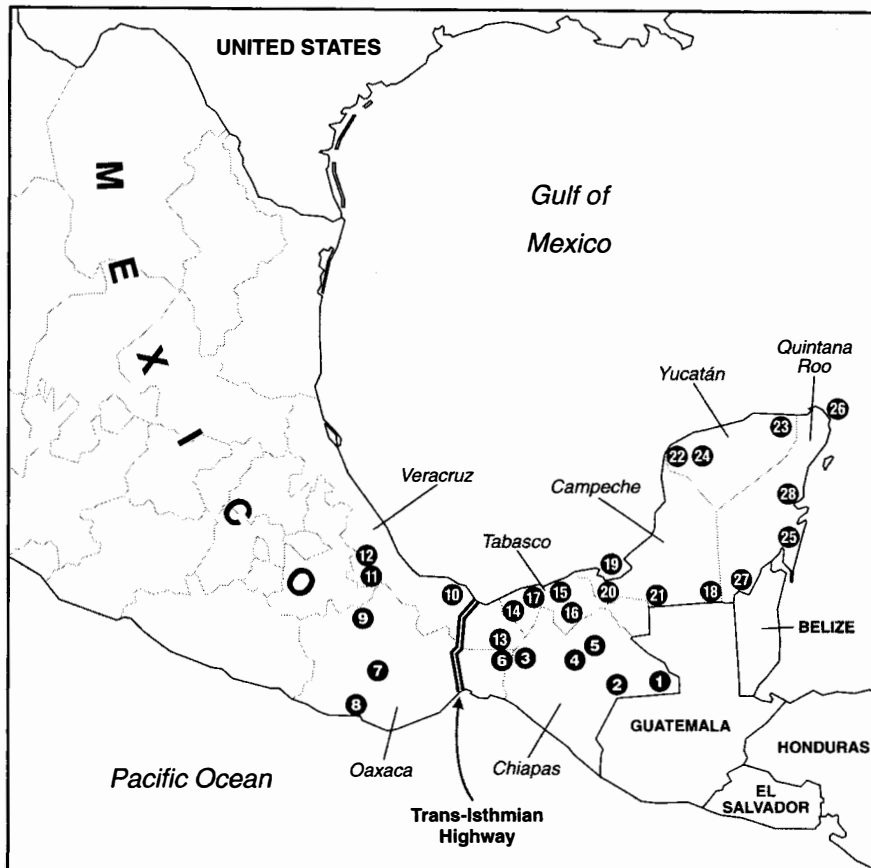


FIGURE 1
Southeast Mexico: protected areas where WWF-funded organizations operate

CHIAPAS	Total hectares
1. Montes Azules	331,200
2. Lagunas de Montebello	6,022
3. El Ócote	48,140
4. Cascadas de Agua Azul*	2,580
5. Palenque*	1,771
OAXACA	
6. Los Chimalapas	600,000
7. Sierra Benito Juárez*	2,737
8. Lagunas de Chacahua	14,187
9. Valle Cuicatán-Tehuacán	†
VERACRUZ	
10. Sierra de Santa Martha/Volcán San Martín	21,500
11. Cañón Río Blanco	55,690
12. Pico de Orizaba	19,750
13. Río Uxpanapa (Sierra 3 Picos)	†
TABASCO	
14. Las Choapas	†
15. Río Grijalva and Río Usumacinta	†
16. Río González	†
17. Laguna de Mecoaoca	†
CAMPECHE	
18. Reserva Calakmul	723,185
19. Laguna de Términos	†
20. Palizada	†
21. Los Petenes	†
YUCATAN	
22. Río Celestun	59,130
23. Río Lagartos	47,840
24. Dzilbilchaltuam*	539
QUINTANA ROO	
25. Reserva Sian ka'an	528,147
26. Isla Contoy	176
27. Río Azul and Río Hondo	†
28. Tulum	†

* national park
 † not delimited

managed by Ullin, A.C. and the University of Florida through its Tropical Conservation Studies program. This area, says the WWF, faces the "threat" of "unplanned colonization, illegal hunting, road construction, exploration and exploitation of petroleum, and construction of dams."

In creating the Lagunas de Montebello Biosphere Reserve (2), the WWF has worked with the Natural History Institute of Chiapas since 1985. The Department of Urban Development and Ecology's data on Natural Protected Areas of Mexico (November 1987) also includes the national park Cascadas de Agua Azul (4), and Palenque, an archeological zone (5).

In the state of Veracruz toward the Gulf of Mexico, there are various "demographic studies" being conducted on the spider monkey, the howler monkey, and on the "feeding habits" of the stork; and conservation programs exist in the Sierra de Santa Marta (10), in the Pico de Orizaba (12), and the Cañón de Río Blanco (11). This is a region that extends from the Catemaco Lakes to La Choapas Lake (14) on the border with Tabasco.

In Tabasco, the WWF has "investigations" ongoing in Las Choapas Lake and is studying "threatened birds" in the immense delta of the Grijalva and Usumacinta rivers (15). It also has its "priority areas" for conservation of biological diversity in the Serrania del Madrigal and Mecoaoca Lake (17), and Río González (16). This entire zone is traditionally

known as the Escarcega Swamps, a 300-square-kilometer area of swamp and marshland,

In Campeche, the WWF has a program considered to be its pearl. This is the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve (18). Located at the extreme southern tip of the state, this reserve borders both Guatemala and Belize where the respective governments are also developing environmental protection programs. Thus, says the WWF, "a broad protective area of international significance" is being created. "This could establish an important precedent of collaboration in the region." Other priority areas for the WWF in Campeche are Los Petenes (21), Laguna de Terminos (19), and Palizada (21). All of the WWF's "research" is run through Pronatura-Yucatán.

Related to the Calakmul program is the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve (25) along the Caribbean coast in Quintana Roo, which also includes a 110-kilometer natural sea barrier, considered the second largest reef in the world. Sian Ka'an is described by WWF as a "new focus" for protected natural areas, in that it is designed to "reduce the environmental impact of the cattle ranches. . . . This is critical since the ranches have been identified as the greatest threat to the natural environment of the region." Other "priority areas" for the WWF in this state are the Azul and Hondo rivers (27), which form a natural border with Belize, and Contoy Island (26).

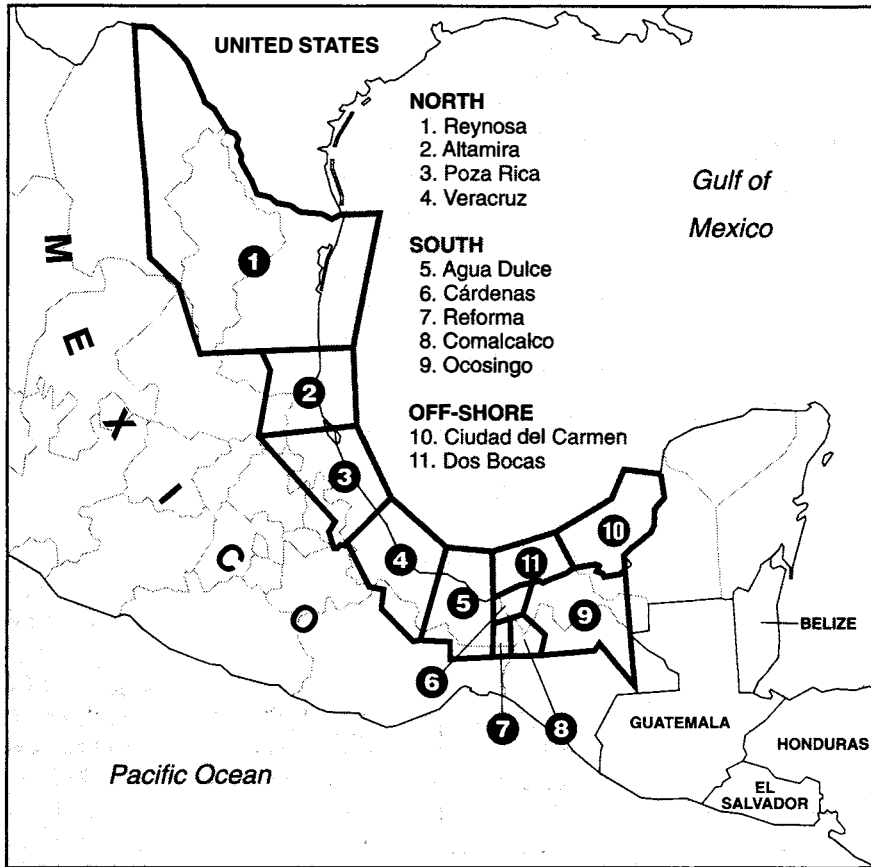


FIGURE 2
**Mexico's oil: Pemex
 administrative districts**

In Yucatán, "priority areas" for the WWF's biological diversity programs include the Celestum River (22) and its immense inlet, which embraces part of the state of Campeche, and Lagartos River (23) and its inlet.

Oil under ecological siege

Now let us take a look at the relation between these protected areas and oil production in Mexico. In **Map 2**, we see the Administrative Division of Pemex-Exploration and Production. Here we find that Mexico's oil fields are surrounded by "protected areas." The same holds true for the production centers for petrochemical products, which are located in the same region.

From District 4 (Veracruz) to the south along the Gulf of Mexico, one finds 96.3% of national oil production. The Sonda de Campeche region produced in 1992 a daily average of 1,914,279 barrels per day (71.8%), and the Southern Region (Reforma, Chiapas and Comalcalco, Tabasco) produced 654,323 bpd (24.5%). The northern area contributed a mere 99,122 bpd (3.7%)

From District 9 (Ocosingo, Chiapas) up to Sonda de Campeche, there are proven crude oil reserves of some 65.050 billion barrels. In Chiapas state, with its 89,733 hectares of "natural protected areas," the state oil company Pemex has determined the existence of 7,000 square kilome-

ters with subterranean oil mantles. A large part of the country's potential oil reserves (some 160 billion barrels) is located in this state. Further, Chiapas produces 85% of the country's hydroelectric energy. Also, mineral deposits of iron, uranium, bauxite, titanium, gold, lead, silver, zinc, and other non-metallic minerals exist there.

The latest important oil beds discovered by Pemex are across from Isla Mujeres, a municipality which includes Isla Contoy, another biosphere reserve.

Los Chimalapas in Oaxaca (616,924 hectares of protected area) has been considered since the last century as an area of strategic importance, since it is practically the geographical control point for the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, approximately 200 kilometers from both Salina Cruz (Oaxaca) and Coatzacoalcos (Veracruz). Considered a region rich in lumber, Los Chimalapas was granted in 1842 as a concession to Juan de Garay by then-President Antonio López de Santa Ana. De Garay sold the concession in London to John Jay Williams, owner of the Louisiana Tehuantepec Railway Co.

During the Benito Juárez government, thought was given to constructing a navigable canal through the isthmus. Under Porfirio Díaz, lumber companies like J. Henry and Sons Co., Mexican International Land Co., New York Lumber Co., St. Paul Development, and Hearst State established themselves in the area instead.