

*The Department of Environmental Studies
presents a public talk on*

Ecosystem management and sustainable development in Mexico City

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4:00-5:30 pm

408 Baker Lab, SUNY-ESF

The megalopolis accounts for major environmental deterioration around the world. Mexico City and its metropolitan area which includes the Federal District (DF) and 41 suburban municipalities, where 20 million people live, is no exception. However, in spite of the urban sprawl that has occurred in this city in recent decades, there are still localized ecological reservoirs covering 58% of the DF. One example is the Magdalena River Basin, located at the southwest limit of Mexico City. However, a lack of strategies to provide for both people's needs and environmental protection leaves the area vulnerable to degradation. We conducted a sector diagnostic analysis of both the social-environmental and biophysical dynamics of the basin to determine its integral functionality. Results affirm that the basin is still a refuge of phytodiversity and an important area for the provision of ecosystem services for the inhabitants of Mexico City. Since the basin faces a number of threats that might cause the depletion of biodiversity, we propose a strategy of ecosystem management and sustainable local development that includes restoration by ecosystem type, biodiversity protection, sustainable management, environmental education and communication.

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