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Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí
(Autonomous University of San Luis Potosí)
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UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE SAN LUIS POTOSÍ (MÉXICO)

UASLP is a public Mexican university with an enrollment nearing 18,000 baccalaureate and 1,400 graduate students. In 2004, its faculty includes 2,400 professors of which 700 are full time.

UASLP is the most important higher education institution (HEI) of the State of San Luis Potosí (located in the central region of Mexico, with a total population of two million in 2000). It is the first university to obtain the rule of autonomy in the country (in 1923) and it is highly recognized nationally and internationally due, in part, to the high proportion of grad and undergrad programs accredited by official external and government educational and science agencies (such as SEP-Pifop and Conacyt).

UASLP is organized in 26 academic entities: 13 Faculties and Schools with 5 associated research centers, 7 research institutes, 2 multidisciplinary units (one in the Media Region, in the city of Rioverde, and one in the Huasteca Region of the State, in Cd. Valles), a Coordination of Social Sciences and Humanities, a High School and two academic departments. It offers a total of 48 undergrad and 50 grad programs.

Every appropriate academic entity offers undergrad and grad programs approaching directly environmental issues in areas such as agroecology, chemical engineering, geology, hydrosystems, toxicology, environmental sciences, regional geography, culture and environment and environmental history, among others.

Furthermore, numerous research, training, consulting and services programs are developed in diverse disciplines.

In support of the above mentioned academic programs (specialized programs), UASLP established *Agenda Ambiental* in 1998, in direct line of authority from the Rector's office. This document describes the objectives, programs and achievements of *Agenda Ambiental*.

More information about UASLP at:
<http://www.uaslp.mx>

More information about specialized programs at:
<http://ambiental.uaslp.mx/>



Agenda Ambiental (Environmental Agenda) is a university initiative of transversal and horizontal character whose mission is to promote and support inclusion of the environmental and sustainability perspective in every university endeavour, in such a way as to have a profound impact to the inside and to the outside of the institution.

In short, its specific objectives are to contribute to:

- > Incorporating the environmental perspective to grad and undergrad curricula
- > Formation and updating of UASLP's professors and researchers in environmental, ecological and sustainable development topics
- > Strengthening of research, grad studies and applied studies
- > Diversifying technical laboratory services, consulting and field studies.
- > Environmental and sustainability performance of the university itself in energy and water consumption, residues, effluents, paper, vegetation, landscape, etc
- > Developing of innovative strategies of environmental communication.

AGENDA AMBIENTAL
UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE SAN LUIS POTOSÍ

The main challenges facing *Agenda Ambiental* are:

- > Articulate environmental programs being developed by diverse academic groups in faculties, schools and institutes.
- > Contribute to institutionalizing of collaborative and transversal work mechanisms among academic entities and groups inside UASLP
- > Generate a mayor intra and interinstitutional impact and transcendence for environmental academic programs of UASLP
- > Build the interdisciplinarity around concrete work objects.

Coordination of *Agenda Ambiental* is an office directly under the Rector of UASLP and its main function is to coordinate strategic and multidisciplinary programs, through a work style promoting collaboration and complementarity. It offers promotion support before external agencies, to academic entities, as instructed by the Rector and under specific asking of every entity. Coordination of *Agenda Ambiental* is a small office staffed with highly trained and efficient personnel, in close collaboration with professors, social service students, promoters, administrative personnel and authorities of UASLP.

Agenda Ambiental organizes itself through programs and projects articulating efforts of academic and administrative entities in a flexible and horizontal way, forming intra and interinstitutional nets. The three types of programs of *Agenda Ambiental* are:

- > Specialized
- > Strategic, and
- > Especial



academia universitaria de medio ambiente

The University Academy for the Environment (AUMA in its Spanish acronym) is one of the three strategic programs UASLP develops through *Agenda Ambiental*.

AUMA is an initiative seeking to support regular teaching activities of UASLP's professors who are interested in incorporating or strengthening the environmental and sustainable development (ESD) perspective through design and practice of specific projects of educational innovation and production of didactic materials.

MISSION

Contributing to betterment of quality of university teaching through generating presential and virtual spaces for reflexion, conceptualization, self assessment and follow up of professors' projects in all diverse disciplines and matters related to ESD.

MEMBERSHIP

The academy is formed by full time and part time professors, and technicians. It is presided by the Rector of the University and coordinated by *Agenda Ambiental*.

OPERATION

AUMA is a multidisciplinary network – collegiate, flexible and colaborative – which promotes exchange of experiences, participation in updating events and the publication and dissemination of products of the members activities, in use of informatic and communication technologies at UASLP.

AUMA's activities rest on presential and virtual mechanisms of work such as meetings, website, discussion forums, bulletins, workshops, discussion and training seminars.

LINES OF WORK

- Development of innovative materials and methodologies for the incorporation of ESD perspective in university teaching.
- Development of online multidisciplinary teaching modules in support of university teaching and technical training, under the approach of "learning objects".
- Development of research, reflexions and proposals on the incorporation of ESD perspective to curricula and teaching of professions offered by UASLP.

AUMA's call for membership was made public on March 10, 2003.

AUMA is one of three strategic programs UASLP develops through *Agenda Ambiental*. Its principles of operation, main products and up to date information can be found at the website: <http://ambiental.uaslp.mx/>



programa multidisciplinario de posgrado en ciencias ambientales

The Graduate Multidisciplinary Program in Environmental Sciences (PMPCA in its Spanish acronym) is the first graduate program UASLP offers jointly by several academic entities in a coordinated manner. PMPCA is under the responsibility of three faculties:

- > Chemical Sciences
- > Medicine
- > Engineering

23 professors of UASLP with PhD level from these and the other following 5 entities participate in the program:

- > Desertic Zones Research Institute
- > Institute of Metallurgy
- > Coordination of Social Sciences and Humanities
- > Faculty of Agronomy
- > Faculty of Habitat

The main purpose of PMPCA is formation of high quality human resources at the masters and doctoral level, for the multidisciplinary study and solution of regional, national and international environmental problems.

PMPCA areas are:

- > Prevention and Control
- > Environmental Assessment
- > Natural Renewable Resources
- > Environmental Management and Policies
- > Environmental Toxicology.

Graduates would be able to:

- > Identify, analyze and characterize critical environmental problems
- > Put forward and carry out (execute) solution proposals for the identified environmental problems
- > Do research and teaching in multidisciplinary groups
- > Manage a diverse language (terminology) conducive (inducive) to an ample vision of the different environmental problems.

PMPCA is accredited by the National Program for the Strengthening of Graduate Studies (Pifop) of National Council of Science and Technology (Conacyt).

PMPCA is one of three strategic programs UASLP develops through its *Agenda Ambiental*. Up to date information on PMPCA, its achievements and products can be found in our website: <http://ambiental.uaslp.mx/>



sistema de manejo ambiental

The Environmental Management System (SMA for its initials in Spanish) was created in January 2002 and has required an ample organization and collaboration capacity across several academic entities.

In synthetic terms, the purpose of SMA is to avoid or diminish adverse environmental impact in functioning of UASLP and constitute a model of environmental quality projected towards the institutional surrounding.

COMPONENTS OF SMA

- > Environmental Audit
- > Environmental Management Plan
- > Performance Indicators

SMA articulates efforts of professors, students, administrative personnel and authorities of academic and administrative entities of UASLP.

MODULES OF SMA

- > Handling of Regulated Substances and Materials
- > Complying on Emissions, Discharges and Residues
- > Appropriate and Efficient Use of Energy
- > Appropriate and Efficient Use of Water
- > Appropriate and Efficient Use of Office Supplies
- > Administration and Aquisitions
- > Revegetation and Landscape Architecture
- > Bioclimatics and Construction
- > Risk and Contingencies
- > Maintenance
- > Norms, Standards and Certification.
- > Communication and Education.

SMA is one of three strategic programs UASLP develops through its *Agenda Ambiental*. Up to date information on SMA, its achievements and products can be seen at our website: <http://ambiental.uaslp.mx/>



ESPECIAL PROGRAMS

These are multidisciplinary projects seeking to widen local, regional and national impact of UASLP in ESD matters. They are projects contracted by external instances. In the last few years the following stand out:

- 1996-1997: Training Program in Environmental Management and Ecology, in coordination with and financing from the State and Federal Governments, as well as the World Bank.
- 1998-1999: The document “Technical-Scientific Comments on the Environmental Components of the Cerro de San Pedro Project of Minera San Xavier Enterprise” for the State Government of San Luis Potosí and Semarnat.
- 1998-2000: Research project “The Role of Higher Education in the Construction of Regional Sustainable Development”, which produced several documents, financed by Sihgo-Conacyt.
- 1998-2000: “Urban Development Plan for the State of San Luis Potosí 2000-2020” under contract with Ministry of Urban Development and Public Works of the State Government.
- 2001: “Strategic Assessment of Sites for Industrial Parks in the City of San Luis Potosí”, study made under contract with the Ministry of Economic Development of the State Government.
- 2001-2002: “Land Use Inventory for the States of Aguascalientes, San Luis Potosí and Zacatecas” under contract with Sedesol.

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

All the above mentioned programs (specialized, strategic and especial) require the organization of support activities. The following stand out during 2002-2003:

- The organization of formation and training events such as: The seminar “Social Sciences, Professional Formation and Environment” (2002); the forum “Residues Land Filling” (2002); the course “Environmental Impact Assessments” (2002-2003); the course “Environmental Law” (May 2003); the “1 National Forum on the Incorporation of Environmental Perspective in Professional Formation”, organized in June 2003 and the Workshop for Environmental Promoters (2003).
- Strengthening of networks and institutional contacts: UASLP, through *Agenda Ambiental*, participates in the State Commission of Ecology and in several projects, committees and initiatives of the Ministry of the Environment (*Secretaría de Ecología y Gestión Ambiental*, SEGAM), and Semarnat. Furthermore, it has actively participated in founding and development of the Mexican Consortium of University Environmental Programs for Sustainable Development (*Consortio Mexicano de Programas Ambientales Universitarios para el Desarrollo Sustentable*, or *Complexus*), the National Academy of Environmental Education (*Academia Nacional de Educación Ambiental*, ANEA) and the Action Plan for Sustainable Development of the National Association of Universities and Institutions of Higher Education (*Asociación Nacional de Universidades e Instituciones de Educación Superior*, ANUIES).
- Activities of dissemination and continuous education, mainly our website (<http://ambiental.uaslp.mx>), several e-lists and e-bulletins, as well as the more than 400 articles on environmental scientific dissemination published in local diaries in the last 5 years.

For more information on the support activities performed since 1998 and plans for 2004-2006, visit also our website of *Agenda Ambiental*.

programas

Strategic Programs of *Agenda Ambiental* of UASLP

University Academy for the Environment

Undergraduate programs

Graduate Multidisciplinary Program in Environmental Sciences

Research and formation of high level human resources

Environmental Management System

Institutional operation and congruence

Support projects for promotion of knowledge and information

Information resources

didactic, bibliographic, graphic and informatics

Equipment

specific, computing, connectivity, facilities

Events

courses, workshops, seminars, forums, congresses

Inter-institutional relationships

Action Plan ANUIES-Semarnat, Complexus, others



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June, 2004



Universidad
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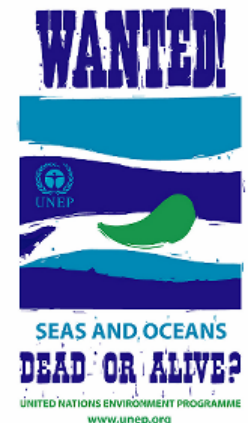
Integral Program
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México

Do you know what UASLP does for the environment?

- Our university works all year long in concrete actions such as:
- > 118 professors of UASLP teach environmental topics in 165 subjects of 48 undergrad programs at schools, faculties and multidisciplinary units to 18,700 students.
 - > 11 collegiate academic bodies of professors of UASLP are oriented towards the protection and care of the environment.
 - > The University Academy for the Environment (AUMA) of UASLP is constituted by professors which include the environmental perspective in their courses under an innovative concept.
 - > UASLP is training student promoters to support incorporation of the environmental perspective in the university's activities.
 - > UASLP offers several grad studies (master and doctor level) including lines of research in environment: Basic Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Minerals, Hydrosystems and Applied Geology, for example, at the Faculties of Medicine, Engineering and Chemical Sciences.
 - > Furthermore, UASLP offers the Graduate Multidisciplinary Program (master and doctor level) in Environmental Sciences.
 - > 58 professors do research in 37 lines on ESD in diverse disciplines.
 - > UASLP's researchers have published more than 500 articles on dissemination of environmental science.
 - > 18 laboratories of UASLP offer services on analysis of soils, subsoil, water, atmosphere, flora and fauna, and health, contributing to environmental protection in the state and elsewhere.
 - > UASLP has done special projects to inform decisions of the authorities and society in general in matters of urban sustainable development, handling of aquifers and water distribution networks, and industrial development, among others.
 - > Academic entities offer consulting and training services in environmental planning, environmental health, water networks and many others.
 - > SMA is in charge of environmental handling of the institution in matters such as use and handling of water and energy, residues, landscaping, construction, purchasing and effluents, among others.
 - > SMA is developing an environmental audit of UASLP, a Environmental Management Plan and its performance indicators.
 - > Since 1999, UASLP has organized 17 updating courses, forums, congresses and other events in ESD topics where more than 1000 people participating, mostly university professors from UASLP and other institutions, government officials and professionals in general.
 - > UASLP has a free e-bulletin, where everyone can know the ESD activities done by academic and administrative entities of our institution. ¡just subscribe!

Visit the website of *Agenda Ambiental*,
<http://ambiental.uaslp.mx/>

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - 5 JUNE 2004



June 5th, 2004
World Environment Day



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Junio de 2004

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - 5 JUNE 2004



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