

Negative Strategies on the Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela Topic

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1. Economic engagement perpetuates poverty.

This strategy involves a frontal attack on free trade
– on the “neoliberal” model.

Michael Parenti, (Ph.D., Yale U.), THE FACE OF IMPERIALISM, 2011, 73.
Around the world the empire builders and plutocrats extend their reach, expropriating land, labor, resources, and markets, gathering still more and more riches unto themselves. Marinating in their immense wealth, the laissez-faire disciples tirelessly sing hosannas to the empire's prime mythic creation, the free market, that magical blend of individual greed and supposedly collective benefit. In this chapter we investigate in some detail the blessings of the free market as bestowed upon the victimized populations of several countries.

2. Morality is more important than economics.

Daniel Fisk, (Former, Deputy Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs), THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI INTER-AMERICAN LAW REVIEW, Fall 2010, 85-86.

The second reality is life as it is lived by average Cubans on a day-by-day basis and how U.S. policy decisions may affect them. This was summed up in early 2009 in a letter from seventeen independent Cuban civil society activists to President Obama. Speaking in the name of "Cubans who have defied the repression [and] the intimidation" of the Cuban government, they wrote: "We ask that you do not put commercial considerations ahead of political freedom for our people. We invite you not to sacrifice the moral leadership of the United States in the face of commercial temptations. Your presidency is a tribute to everything that can be conquered when a cause is just and correct. We dedicate our lives to the movement for the freedom of Cuba and expect -- one day -- to have a democratically-elected Cuban president who would welcome you to Havana. Do not forget us. We need your support. We, too, 'have a dream' of freedom."

3. Economic engagement in the form of mass tourism devastates the environment.

Franco Ordonez, (Staff), PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE, May 24, 2012, A10.
The U.S. trade embargo, which has been in place for 50 years, has in many ways been a gift to Cuba's forests, fish populations and coral reefs. It helped insulate Cuba's ecosystem from the type of tourist development that's wracked other nations. Sea turtles that feed in Florida journey back each year to nest in Cuba. Many grunts and snapper fish that live off the North Carolina coast also spawn in Cuba. The oceanic whitetip shark has almost disappeared from U.S. waters, but preliminary studies show the predators in abundance around the island.

4. Economic engagement is bad for the United States.

Paulette Stenzel, (Prof., International Business, Michigan State U.), AMERICAN BUSINESS LAW JOURNAL, Fall 2012, 602.
NAFTA has also hurt the United States economically. By November 2002, 507,000 U.S. workers had received extended unemployment benefits because their employers had moved their jobs to Mexico. This figure may not fully represent U.S. jobs lost under NAFTA because many workers did not realize they qualified for benefits.

5. Squeezing drug cartels will shift the violence to other more harmful areas.

Paul Kan, (Prof., Military Studies, U.S. Army War College), CARTELS AT WAR: MEXICO'S DRUG-FUELED VIOLENCE AND THE THREAT TO U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY, 2012, 136.
With well-established smuggling routes in place, cartels can turn their networks toward other illicit trade unrelated to drugs. Human trafficking, for example, is a lucrative trade whose profits are competitive with illicit narcotics.

6. Economic engagement will undermine democracy.

Christopher Simmons, (Retired Supervisory Officer, U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency), CUBA'S GLOBAL NETWORK OF TERRORISM, INTELLIGENCE, AND WARFARE, Hrg., House Comm. on Foreign Affairs, May 17, 2012, 26.

Several years ago, shortly, we believe, after the end of Soviet subsidies, the Castro brothers turned over the tourism sector to military intelligence services. And now it is run as just that, a profit-making center and we know from defectors that these services are actually allowed to take earnings and recycle it into their own budgets so they are further incentivized in what they do. When you look at the tourism industry, virtually every facet from a visitor applying for the visa to arriving in Cuba on a Cuban airline to the Hotel Nacional and the other hotels, it funds nothing but the Cuban intelligence services and military and the regime's ability to repress its own people.

7. Politics: The plan will set in motion destructive political forces.

Adoption of the plan will change the outcome of the mid-term elections in harmful ways, or will cause a harmful political backlash, or will impact political capital in unfortunate ways (Most common impact in 2013: Failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform)



8. Economic engagement will marginalize oil producers in Russia or Saudi Arabia.

Adoption of the plan will cause a resurgence of an aggressive Russian foreign policy or will bring down the Saudi Royal Family leading to wars in Eastern Europe or the Middle East.



9. Oil Drilling Will Devastate the Environment.

Foreign drilling operations in the North Cuba Basin have failed; only the entrance of U.S. drilling firms will allow this development to proceed, resulting in another Deepwater Horizon-type disaster to the environment.



10. Hegemony: Expanded U.S. influence is harmful.

Hal Weitzman, (Staff Writer, Financial Times), LATIN LESSONS: HOW SOUTH AMERICA STOPPED LISTENING TO THE UNITED STATES AND STARTED PROSPERING, 2012, 254-255.

The cry for the United States to engage with Latin America is by now familiar and repetitive. But it has always been made on the premise that the region was in desperate need of being rescued by the United States—that its political, economic, and social well-being depended on Washington "rediscovering" its neighbors to the south. Latin America was Sleeping Beauty, the United States the prince who could raise the sleeper from slumber—if only it could be bothered to cut through the weeds and kiss the region back to life. But with the United States in relative economic decline, it is Washington that needs international partners and allies.

ALBA: Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas

Founded by Venezuela and Cuba

Current Members: (8) -- Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Dominica, Ecuador, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Antigua and Barbuda; Paraguay is an observer nation, expected to join in the future

Purpose: Create an alternative to the neo-liberal model of international trade as represented by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund

Instruments: UNASUR (Union of South American Nations), Banco del Sur (The Bank of the South)

Soft Balancing Explained

Javier Corrales, (Prof., Political Science, Amherst College), VENEZUELA'S PETRO-DIPLOMACY: HUGO CHÁVEZ'S FOREIGN POLICY, 2011, 33.

Soft balancing is the term used to describe efforts short of military action to frustrate the foreign policy objective of larger nations. Venezuela is, rhetorically at least, actively trying to counter and frustrate U.S. goals in the region. Second, Venezuela has declared an overt commitment to promote development and, especially, help the poor at home and abroad. To further these goals, the Chávez government has gone on an international spending spree. It has offered investment to as many nations as possible, most of it billed as development aid. Venezuela's main innovation in foreign policy is to use this type of foreign economic largesse as a way to balance the United States. Few nations since the end of the Cold War have exploited this foreign policy tool to the same degree as Venezuela.

Extensive Foreign Assistance

Sean Goforth, (Prof., World Politics, Coastal Carolina U.), AXIS OF UNITY: VENEZUELA, IRAN & THE THREAT TO AMERICA, 2012, 143-144.

According to a calculation made by University of California-San Diego professor Richard Feinberg, Chávez's aid pledges rival that of the Marshall Plan in real terms. Even by the most conservative estimates, Chávez's aid to other Latin American nations eclipsed that from the U.S. Agency for International Development and the World Bank combined.

11. Asia Pivot: Focus on Latin America Trades Off.

Helen Milner, (Prof., Politics, Princeton U.), INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, Winter 2011, 42.

A central core of support for international engagement in trade and aid lies in the constituencies that gain economically from trade and aid. Surprisingly, political economy preferences affect legislative voting in aid as much as they do in trade and in the same way. This lends support to the idea of a single coalition supporting international economic engagement and to the claim of foreign policy substitutability.

John Mearsheimer, (Prof., Int. Relations, U. Chicago), 2004. WHY CHINA'S RISE WILL NOT BE PEACEFUL. Retrieved July 9, 2013 from <http://mearsheimer.uchicago.edu/pdfs/A0034b.pdf>.

The question at hand is simple and profound: Can China rise peacefully? My answer is no. If China continues its impressive economic growth over the next few decades, the United States and China are likely to engage in an intense security competition with considerable potential for war. Most of China's neighbors, to include India, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Russia, and Vietnam, will join with the United States to contain China's power.

12. New spending will cause the deficit to balloon.

John Makin, (Staff), THE GUARDIAN, Apr. 26, 2013. Retrieved July 9, 2013 from <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/apr/26/sequester-washington-deficit-reduction-sabotage>.

The good news is that the sequester should make a big dent in US debt. The bad news is that political squabbles will undo that.

Daniel Mitchell (Senior Fellow, Cato Institute) "The Budget Deficit and U.S. Competitiveness," May 6, 2011. Retrieved Apr. 21, 2012 at

<http://www.cfr.org/economics/budget-deficit-us-competitiveness/p24910>

In extreme cases, high budget deficits can destabilize entire economies, either because a government resorts to the printing press to finance deficits or because investors lose faith in a government's ability to service debt, thus leading to a sovereign debt crisis. The United States hopefully is not close to becoming either Argentina or Greece, but the trend in recent years is not very encouraging. The burden of government spending has exploded, which, combined with temporarily low tax receipts because of a weak economy, has pushed annual red ink above \$1 trillion per year.

13. Pouring outside money into poor countries is counterproductive.

This disad essentially says that pouring money into a poor country's economy ends up doing more harm than good; it causes dependence and currency inflation, limiting the export capability of that country and increasing the cost of all goods. Accordingly, the influx of currency may actually end up hurting more than it helps.

The term "Dutch Disease" was coined by the British newspaper, The Economist, to describe what happened to the economy of The Netherlands in 1959 when natural gas was discovered. The generalized economic model was made popular by economists W. Max Corden and J. Peter Neary in a 1982 article.

CUBA, MEXICO, VENEZUELA CASES: NEG POSITIONS

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Humberto Fontova, (Cuban-American Journalist), THE WASHINGTON TIMES, Apr. 7, 2011, B1.

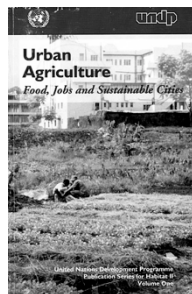
According to Freedom House, more than half a million Cubans have suffered in the Castros' various gulags, dungeons and torture chambers, an incarceration rate higher than Josef Stalin's. According to the scholars and researchers at the Cuba Archive, the Castro regime's total death toll -- from torture, prison beatings, firing squads, machine-gunning of escapees, drownings, etc.--approaches 100,000.



Lift the Cuban Economic Embargo

Christina Ergas, (Prof., Sociology, U. Oregon). FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: SUSTAINABLE URBAN AGRICULTURE IN CUBA, Mar. 2013. Retrieved May 15, 2013 from <http://www.globalresearch.ca/food-sovereignty-sustainable-urban-agriculture-in-cuba/5332167>.

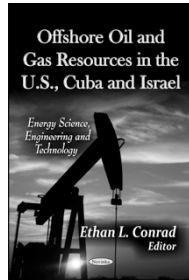
Koont indicates that the significance of urban agriculture in Cuba is that although Cuba is not completely food self-sufficient, it is the only example the world has of a country that produces most of its food locally, employing agroecological techniques for production. Furthermore, most of the food produced is for local consumption. As a result, Cuba has one of the shortest producer-to-consumer chains in the world. In this book, Koont documents the impressive transformations that have taken place within this nation.



Agricultural Trade With Cuba

Peter Orsi, (Staff), THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, Nov. 13, 2012. Retrieved Dec. 26, 2012 from Nexis.

The only rig in existence that can drill in deep waters off Cuba is preparing to sail away from the island, officials said Tuesday, after the third exploratory well sunk this year proved nonviable in a blow to government hopes of an oil bonanza. While production was always years off even in the event of a big discovery, analysts said the Scarabeo-9's imminent departure means Havana's dreams of injecting petrodollars into a struggling economy will be on hold indefinitely. "Bottom line: This chapter is finished. Close the book, put it on the shelf," said Jorge Pinon, a Latin America oil expert at the University of Texas' Center for International Energy and Environmental Policy.



Oil in the North Cuba Basin

Rochelle Spencer, (Prof., International Studies, Macquarie U.), DEVELOPMENT TOURISM: LESSONS FROM CUBA, 2010, 43-44.

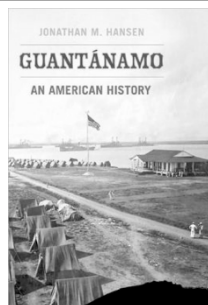
It has long been argued that because foreign private sector interests often drive tourism, it has limited potential to contribute to the alleviation of poverty in developing countries. Indeed it can disadvantage the poor in many ways. Tourism is renowned for its high incidence of revenue leakage, and generally, the revenue that is retained in a destination country goes towards high or middle income groups, not the poor. Moreover, tourism has proved to be a highly volatile industry prone to the effects of events such as political unrest, exchange rate fluctuations, and natural disasters, making it a highly insecure livelihood for poor families. Tourism to date has explicitly affected the poor in Third World countries, through displacement, the increase of local costs, decreased access to resources, and social and cultural disruption.



Tourist Travel to Cuba

Jonathan Hansen, (Prof., History, Harvard U.), GUANTÁNAMO: AN AMERICAN HISTORY, 2011, 357-358.

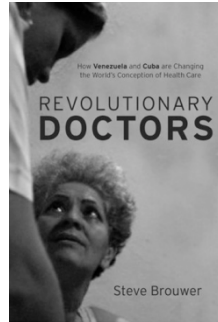
Cubans have long looked on the region as a refuge from the repression, thuggery, corruption, and racial persecution besetting the rest of Cuba. Oriente province has long served as Cuba's frontier, Guantánamo as the nation's safety valve. For the past fifty years, Cubans fleeing the persecution of Castro's government have regarded the U.S. base as a vestige of imperialism, to be sure, but also as a haven. Cuban dissidents have climbed fences, tiptoed through minefields, and swum thirty miles against current, wind, and long odds to make it to the naval base.



Return Guantánamo Bay

Will Weissert, (Staff, Associated Press),
WASHINGTON TIMES, DEC. 15, 2009.
Retrieved May 8, 2013 from
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/dec/15/medical-aid-to-cuba-hits-snags/?page=all>.

How much American medical technology Cuba really needs is also open for debate. The communist government says no patient dies for lack of medicine or equipment in its universal health care system. Also, Cuba's Health Ministry sends buyers to the U.S. "to buy everything we need" and carry them back without permits, said Dr. Anasagasti, the Cuban oncologist.



Enable Sale of Medical Supplies

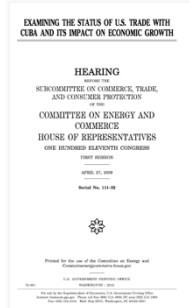
Fernando Ravsberg, (Staff), HAVANA TIMES, Jan. 24, 2013. Retrieved May 17, 2013 from
<http://www.havanatimes.org/?p=86459>.

If there exists legislation that allows Cubans to obtain residency in the US, that's great. Hopefully it will be expanded to the rest of Latin Americans. Likewise, it doesn't seem ethical or humanitarian for Cuban-American officials to now demand the elimination of that law in order to sabotage the right of their countrymen to emigrate.



Repeal the Cuban Adjustment Act

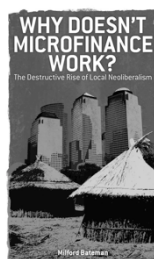
George Radanovich, (U.S. Rep., California),
EXAMINING THE STATUS OF U.S. TRADE WITH CUBA AND ITS IMPACT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, House Hrg., Apr. 27, 2009, 5.
Telecommunications is also viewed as a possible avenue to export more products, but doing business in Cuba requires a joint venture with the Castro government. Whether the net effect would be positive is debatable. Certainly other countries that do not maintain a trade embargo with Cuba have been free to expand their markets in Cuba; however, democracy advocates have yet to see the benefits of those ventures. This may be due in part to the very limited financial resources of the average Cuban citizen and the affordability of telecommunication services. Why anyone thinks that this will change if a company providing the service as a U.S. company rather than their current provider escapes me.



Sale of Telecommunication Gear

Milford Bateman, (Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute), WHY DOESN'T MICROFINANCE WORK?: THE DESTRUCTIVE RISE OF LOCAL NEOLIBERALISM, 2010, 202.

In truth, micro-finance represents an anti-development policy — a development policy that largely works against the establishment of sustainable economic and social development trajectories, and so also against sustainable poverty reduction. For the majority of people in developing and transition countries, their country's diversion into microfinance has actually undermined previous and ongoing efforts to reduce poverty, unemployment, inequality and underdevelopment. In many ways microfinance represents a wrong turning similar to the former Soviet Union's plan-driven channeling of its own scarce resources into inefficient giant factories, huge collectivized state farms and a bloated military-industrial complex. Microfinance is the mirror image of Soviet-style central planning, and just as misguided and ultimately ineffective.



Microfinance Assistance to Cuba

Baseball World, CHASING DREAMS: CUBAN BASEBALL DEFECTORS, Jan. 15, 2010. Retrieved May 15, 2013 from

<http://baseballworld.com/2010/01/15/chasing-dreams-cuban-baseball-defectors-part-1/>.

According to the Cuban baseball website, CubanBall.com, nearly 200 players have defected since 1980. Although just a small number of would-be big leaguers have struck paydirt, the majority of defectors have enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their baseball skills. Prior to Jose Contreras four-year, \$32 million contract with the New York Yankees after defecting from the Americas Cup in Mexico in 2002, former Villa Clara pitcher Rolando Arrojo was the standard bearer with a \$7 million deal from the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. However, the price tag for top Cuban prospects have skyrocketed in recent years.



Cuban Baseball Players

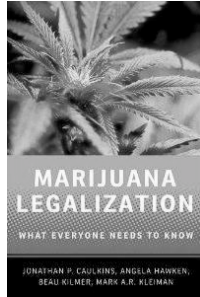
Andres Oppenheimer, (Staff, Miami Herald), MIAMI HERALD, Mar. 29, 2010. Retrieved Apr. 18, 2013 from <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2010/03/29/91066/commentary-mexicos-drug-related.html>.

A new study by Brookings Institute Latin American expert Kevin Casas-Zamora, a former vice president of Costa Rica, helps put Mexico's violence in perspective. According to Casas-Zamora's figures, based on United Nations 2008 data, Mexico's murder rate is nearly five times less than that of sunny Jamaica and about half that of Brazil, a country that was recently awarded the much-coveted 2014 soccer World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games. Consider his data of Latin America's most violent countries: Honduras has a murder rate of 61 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by Jamaica with 60, Venezuela and El Salvador with 52 each, Guatemala with 47, Trinidad and Tobago with 40, Colombia with 39, Brazil with 22, Dominican Republic with 21, Panama with 19, Ecuador with 18, Nicaragua with 13, Paraguay with 12, Mexico and Costa Rica with about 11.5 each, Bolivia with 10.5 and Uruguay, Argentina, Peru, and Chile with less than 10. Comparatively, while the United States homicide rate is lower than Mexico's, Washington, D.C., has a murder rate of 31 people per 100,000 inhabitants and New Orleans has 74.

Demilitarize the Merida Initiative

Jonathan Caulkins, (Prof., Public Policy, Carnegie Mellon U.), MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION: WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW, 2012, 176.

It is not clear how a 20 percent reduction in drug export revenue—to pick one plausible figure—would affect DTO violence. In the first place, a 20 percent reduction in drug export revenue does not imply a 20 percent reduction in total revenue. Despite the "D" in the acronym, DTOs are diversified criminal enterprises that parlay their capacity for violence into a variety of revenue streams including kidnapping, extortion, carjacking, and other activities.



Legalize Marijuana

Ted Galen Carpenter, (Sr. Fellow, Cato Institute), THE FIRE NEXT DOOR: MEXICO'S DRUG VIOLENCE AND THE DANGER TO AMERICA, 2012, 223-224.

Even if gun laws in the United States were tightened, Mexican drug gangs would have little trouble obtaining all the guns—and far more powerful armaments—they desire from black-market sources in Mexico and elsewhere. Indeed, as the commerce in grenades indicates, there is ample evidence that they do so already. After all, drug traffickers are individuals who make their fortunes operating in a black market, and they have vast financial resources to purchase whatever they need to conduct their business.



Flow of Assault Weapons

Lawrence Solomon, (Founder, Green Beanery), NATIONAL POST, May 13, 2011, A1. That fair-trade cup of coffee we savor may not only fail to ease the lot of poor farmers, it may actually help to impoverish them, according to a study out recently from Germany's University of Hohenheim. The study, which followed hundreds of Nicaraguan coffee farmers over a decade, concluded that farmers producing for the fair-trade market "are more often found below the absolute poverty line than conventional producers." "Over a period of 10 years, our analysis shows that organic and organic-fair trade farmers have become poorer relative to conventional producers."



Promote Fair Trade in Mexico

John Rathbone, (Staff), FINANCIAL TIMES, July 21, 2012, 5.

Dirty money will always find a weak spot to enter the global financial system -- be that opaque countries such as Russia or others that use the US dollar, such as Ecuador. Even in supposedly sophisticated countries the record is poor.

Already Illegal:

Bank Secrecy Act of 1970

Money Laundering Control Act of 1986

Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989

Annunzio-Wylie Anti-Money Laundering Act of 1992

Money Laundering Suppression Act of 1994

Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Strategy Act of 1998

Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act of 2000

Bulk Cash Smuggling Act of 2001



Stop Money Laundering

Jennifer Gordon, (Prof., Law, Fordham U. School of Law), NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW, Summer 2010, 1137-1138.

For trade, firms in wealthier nations want unfettered access to developing markets, and their governments recognize that they must negotiate with the governments of the less-developed countries to receive the freedom from tariffs that they seek. In the case of labor migration, however, developed country governments can legislate whatever sort of immigration program they desire without engaging any developing countries at all.



Guestworker Program

Nicholas Rowe, (Henriksen Fellow, Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies), MEXICO'S OPORTUNIDADES: CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS AS A SOLUTION TO GLOBAL POVERTY?, 2011, 3-4. In 1997, Mexico launched a revolutionary, incentive-based poverty alleviation program known as Progresá (later renamed and henceforth referred to as Oportunidades) in response to these dilemmas. The idea is simple: small amounts of money are dispensed bimonthly to poor families based on the strict conditions that children regularly attend school and family members obtain preventive medical care through regular clinic visits and attendance of educational talks. In this way, Oportunidades aimed to provide short-term income poverty relief from the impacts of the crisis and afterwards by increasing immediate consumption possibilities, while promoting the formation of human capital as a means to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty as part of a long-term development strategy.

P. 10. Oportunidades, and in a more general sense conditional cash transfers, represents a departure from traditional forms of social policy. The program moves beyond conventional approaches such as food and in-kind subsidies to embrace a multidimensional approach, one which redefines poverty beyond consideration of income to encompass welfare indicators such as health, education, and nutrition. Families are free to spend cash transfers as they wish and continue to receive them so long as they adhere to the prescribed conditions. Oportunidades is one of the first examples of conditional cash transfers (CCTs).

Sending of Remittances

Jason Margolis, (Journalist), COLORADO RIVER AGREEMENT TO HELP RESTORE WETLANDS IN MEXICO, Nov. 26, 2012. Retrieved Apr. 25, 2013 from <http://www.theworld.org/2012/11/colorado-river-agreement-to-help-restore-vanished-wetlands-in-mexico/>.

Under a new agreement reached last week, the United States will get more water during times of drought. And in times of plenty, Mexico will be able to store excess water north of the border. And the Colorado River Delta also stands to benefit. That's welcome news to people like Francisco Zamora, who directs the Sonoran Institute's Colorado River Delta program. He said when his group planted trees last year on 50 acres in the Delta and provided a tiny amount of water for irrigation, the trees quickly bloomed. "It's really amazing how fast they grow and how quickly they produce habitat. We've seen many species of birds using the habitat, and other wildlife, mammals and the bobcat, and there are a few beavers we've seen along the river." Again, that's from a tiny amount of water. Under the agreement reached this week, more than a thousand times as much water will be added to the Delta, over a five-year period.

Reform the International Border Water Commission

Selene Aparicio, (Journalist), WIND POWER IN MEXICO IS NOW A REALITY, Aug. 18, 2012. Retrieved Apr. 26, 2013 from <http://www.renewableenergymexico.com/?p=531>.

According to Mauricio Trujillo, Project Manager in Latin America of the Global Wind Energy Council, at today Mexico's wind power sector is at the point where the Asian wind power sector was five years ago. This implies that Mexico is at the start of a very steep growth curve and can expect great advancements in the coming years. In order to take advantage of this growth potential, Mexico should expand and upgrade its current transmission infrastructure. Nevertheless, according to Rodríguez Olivé, for the wind power sector to grow in Mexico, there is no need for incentives such as subsidies or feed-in-tariffs. Mexico currently has a favorable public policy environment and this is all the sector needs to grow in the coming years.



Cross-Border Smart Electrical Grid

DEMOCRACY DIGEST, May 2, 2013. Retrieved May 7, 2013 from <http://www.demdiget.net/blog/2013/05/opposition-to-contest-venezuela-poll-in-court/>.

Political analysts and electoral experts, among them Jennifer McCoy of the Carter Center, say the crisis could be defused with an extensive review of the automated voting system to address concerns raised by the opposition. "The concerns are not about the machines and whether they counted accurately," said McCoy, who is the Americas director at the center and has observed six elections here. "The questions are much more about who voted. Was there double voting? Was there impersonation of voters? And was there coerced voting?"



Stop Funding Venezuelan Opposition Groups
