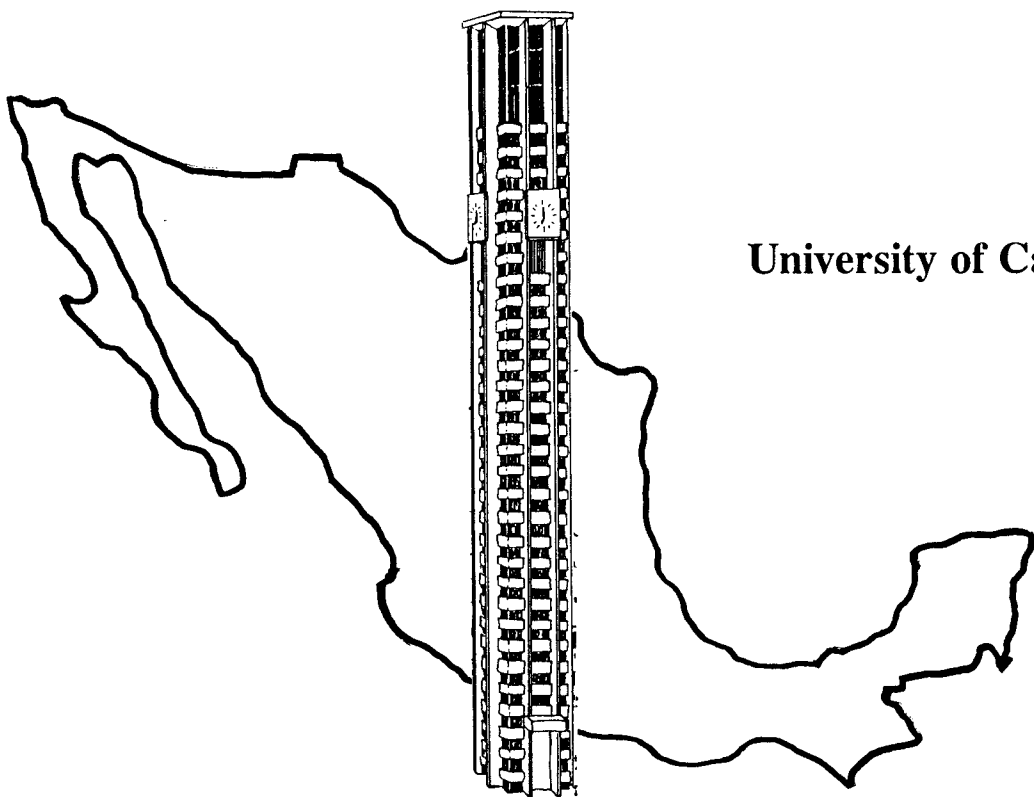


Academic and Scientific Dimensions of the North American Free Trade Agreement



University of California, Riverside

April 12, 1993

A Conference Convened by
The UCR-Mexico Collaborative Research and Training Group

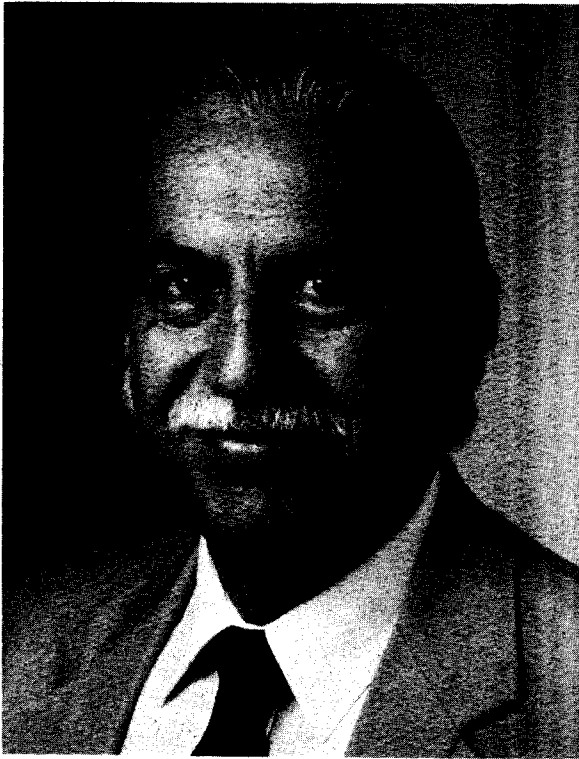
with support from

The University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS)

and

the Vice Chancellor for University Relations and Development
University of California, Riverside

Arturo Gómez-Pompa



The conference, *Academic and Scientific Dimensions of the North American Free Trade Agreement*, honors former UC MEXUS Director Arturo Gómez-Pompa for his contributions to the international academic community. Gómez-Pompa served as director of UC MEXUS from 1986 through 1992. He is currently on leave from his position as professor of botany at the University of California, Riverside.

During his six-year tenure, Gómez-Pompa directed UC MEXUS through an intensive five-year review by the University's Academic Senate which culminated in the former consortium's official designation as a Multi-campus Research Unit (MRU) by The Regents of the University in May of 1992. A new name, the University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States, reflects UC MEXUS' formal status as well as its nine-campus, international and interdisciplinary mission.

From the UC MEXUS Universitywide Headquarters at UCR, Gómez-Pompa also coordinated the University's two-year effort to research, write and publish *The Challenge: Latinos in a Changing California*, a study which primarily addressed the University's potentials for research about Chicano/Latino issues. The report was commissioned by the California legislature through Senate Concurrent Resolution 43 and has generated significant amounts of new resources in support of UC research dedicated to issues concerning California's Chicano/Latino population.

Committed to encouraging collaborative binational research and enabling its application to resolution of problems facing Mexico and the United States, Gómez-Pompa

established the UC MEXUS Critical Issues in U.S.-Mexican Relations conference series, supported by a major grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The series examined such diverse topics as binational security issues, management of marine mammals, and the history of U.S.-Mexican relations.

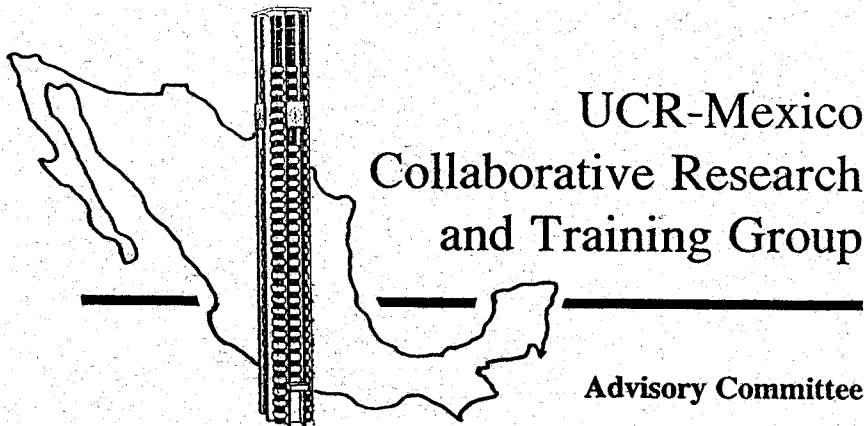
In addition, Gómez-Pompa expanded UC MEXUS grants programs, increasing award amounts and creating, in particular, new competitions for grants to support thesis/dissertation research, Chicana/Chicano studies research, and creative activities. Under his guidance, UC MEXUS greatly increased its support of projects involving intellectual and artistic exchanges, including such diverse projects as lectures at UC campuses by Mexican novelists and political leaders, the Sinfonía Mexicana in Southern California, a television series, "Los Chicanos," produced by Mexico's Secretaría de Educación Pública, the European tour of a UC Chicano theater group, photographic exhibitions at UC by Mexican photographers, and UC faculty participation at many scientific and humanistic conferences in Mexico.

Under Gómez-Pompa's direction UC MEXUS prepared the ground for the establishment of the nongovernmental United States-Mexico Foundation for Science. The Foundation has since received grants from both governments to begin its activities as a major funder of binational collaborative science projects.

Gómez-Pompa earned his professional and doctorate degrees at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and has been a Guggenheim Fellow and Charles Bullard Fellow at Harvard University. He was founding director of Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones sobre Recursos Bióticos and chairman of the Department of Botany at UNAM. His research interests include tropical forest conservation and regeneration, the application of traditional techniques to the management of tropical resources, pre-Hispanic agriculture, and computers in floristic research. He has written more than 150 articles and several books on plant ecology, systematics, and ethnobotany.

Gómez-Pompa serves on many national and international boards, including the Smithsonian Council, the board of directors of the Nature Conservancy, and the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

During 1992 and 1993, Gómez-Pompa has been on leave from his position as professor of botany at the University of California, Riverside in order to serve as advisor to Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari on ecological issues related to the tropics, and to direct the development of a Tropical Forest Action Plan for Mexico.



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